

THE  
MAN of EXPERIENCE:

A  
SENTIMENTAL HISTORY.

I N

TWO VOLUMES.  
*By William Green. AB.  
Late of Christ College Cambridge*

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VOL. II.

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MAN OF EXPERIENCE

SENTIMENTAL HISTORY

VOL. II

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THE  
MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

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CHAP. I.

**I**T is impossible to account for these things : said I.

Philosophy may dictate what reason may refine upon ; but reason and philosophy are alike incapable of investigating those operations which owe their birth to the immediate interference of the Deity.

The bounds of human comprehension are too narrow, too confined for researches so sublime. Taken up with

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the unprofitable pursuit, imagination bewildered, wanders on in vain seeking for the clue that may guide it through the labyrinth of perplexity in which it is involved. Judgment grows giddy; conception fails, and the soul loses all its faculties in admiration of those mysterious events into which it is unable to penetrate.

And yet, with what insufferable arrogance do the generality of mankind talk of their knowledge, and of their power of reasoning!

O vanity! vanity!

\* \* \* \* \*

Jelemmo was a demon of some distinction above five hundred thousand years ago, and yet, with all his experience, he candidly confessed that he knew too little to be capable of *reasoning* from it to any purpose.

You

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You men, said Jelemmo, in a conference with Dr. Beale, are great in your own eyes ; but we, who see all your actions, know your folly and your little importance.

I remember a circumstance that happened about a thousand of your years after your creation, which may serve to elucidate this matter.

The angels who had been employed in forming your system, held an intellectual feast, to which the animal makers had the honour of being admitted.

There came all the various sorts of your bird-makers, fish-makers, insect-makers, beast-makers, and man-makers, who talked a great deal, and were exceedingly vain of their respective performances, describing their ingenious contrivances in adjusting the parts for strength, beauty, and convenience,

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and in providing subsistence for them all.

We freely indulged their prating, as it contributed to our common division.

At length, however, the man-makers began to dispute amongst themselves: one had made the baboon-man, which he valued for his strength of body, his hardiness, and the facility with which he procured himself food: and another had made the monkey-man, which he praised for his agility, his dexterity in climbing trees, and the advantage of his tail, by which he was enabled to hang on the boughs whilst he reached the fruit. In short, the makers of these sort of men had so many excellent things to say, each in commendation of his own work, that the maker of your sort was almost out of countenance, and we began seriously to pity him.

But

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But, alas ! he soon gave us to understand, that he was, to the full, as vain as the rest.

For, recollecting himself, he said, "I own you have outdone me in the strength, in the activity, nay, in the beauty of your men ; but then, pray remember, *My men can REASON.*"

At the word *reason*, all the angels present burst out into an immoderate fit of laughter.

"REASON !" says one.

"REASON !" says another.

Ha, ha, hah !

Hoh, hoh, hoh !

Our mirth was so excessive, that we were heard quite into the next house ; that is, from *Sol* to *Syrius* ; and, from that day to this, I believe he has never ventured to mention again his men's *reasoning*.

\* \* \* \* \*



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Without endeavouring to diminish the favour conferred upon him by a vain and impious enquiry into the means by which it was produced, Mr. Freeland thankfully and gratefully accepted it in silence, as the peculiar gift of a divine benefactor.

It is sufficient that we know ourselves to be happy : said he. It matters not how we became so. The great, the Almighty author of our enjoyments, never intended that we should pry into the mysteries of his providence.

Thankful for the blessings he has thought proper, in his wisdom, to bestow upon us, it ought to be our study to receive them with a grateful heart, regardless of the measures by which they were accomplished.

What a lesson for philosophy ! said Honorius.

What a reproof for pyrrhonism ! said I.

As



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\* \* \* \* \*

As the evening began hastily to approach, Mr. Freeland proposed that we should adjourn to his house.

We shall be there much more at our ease : said he : and, as it is my intention to detain you with me all night, I flatter myself, that my accommodations are at least equal to those a public inn might afford you.

Besides, you ought to assist in rejoicing with me for the recovery of a sister who was dead, and is alive ; who was lost, and is found.

This is a task that of right belongs to you all. It is a task none of you need be ashamed of.

It is a task that cannot reflect dishonour on a Deity : said Honorius, interrupting him.

Neither will we neglect it : said I.

\* \* \* \* \*

The same resignation, the same placid serenity which distinguished every

## 8 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

incident of the life of our fellow-traveller, and which was inherent in her, still visibly accompanied her on the present occasion. Calm and composed, she embraced the good fortune that attended her with a simplicity which, if not courtly, was at least an unquestionable evidence, that her heart was unacquainted with vice.

Of this, however, we had already received the most incontrovertible proof.

The service she had in the hour of danger so generously and disinterestedly administered to Honorius, was sufficient of itself to convince us of a truth so apparent.

Nor did that service fail to attach us to her interest.

With the most unaffected transport, we united to congratulate her on the fortunate event which the day had given birth to, and which promised to reward her labours with that desirable rest

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 9

rest and ease which her merit, not less than her sex, rendered her deserving of.

These congratulations were not lost upon her. Her words, her eyes, her actions, all declared how sensibly she was affected by the novelty of her situation, and with how much gratitude she was inclined to acknowledge the sincerity of our good wishes.

We read her embarrassments, and we therefore carefully avoided every means that we apprehended might tend to increase them.

This conduct had, at least, humanity for its motive.

The mind reviewed it, and the heart applauded it.

\* \* \* \* \*

How ought a man to rejoice in such a sister ! said Honorius.

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Untutored by Art, and unpractised in Dissimulation, she is infinitely more valuable in herself, than if in possession of every accomplishment which the world so highly esteems of.

But until mankind are taught to reverence virtue, for the sake of virtue, they will continue to prefer dross to the more costly and substantial ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.

Shame upon them! Shame upon them!

CHAP.

## C H A P. II.

WE had now journied three hours, and had left Reading near ten miles to the westward of us, without meeting with any accident sufficiently interesting to engross our attention, or to rouse our thoughts from the state of inactivity into which they had fallen.

The variety of adventures we had experienced in the former part of our travels, seemed now, for the first time since our quitting home, to have forsaken us, and we were upon the eve of sinking into a profound lethargy, when our feelings were once more excited by a spectacle, which, in a moment, awakened us to a sense of pity, and to a participation in the greatest luxury the soul of sensibility is capable of relishing.



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It was an ass that lay dead by the road side.

A peasant, who appeared to be the owner of him, stood weeping over him in a posture the finest, and the most truly pathetic, imagination can conceive.

His body was gently bended forward, and his hands were infolded within each other, whilst his tears plentifully streamed from his eyes, as if bemoaning the unexpected dissolution of an old acquaintance.

There was something inconceivably soft and delicate in his countenance.

It visibly displayed a divine mixture of grace and compassion, and was altogether such as nothing less than thy pencil, Reynolds, could possibly convey us the most imperfect idea of.

Gracious God! said Honorius, can this man be no other than what he seems?

But,



## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 13

But, be his situation in life what it may, the goodness of his heart would do honour to a diadem.

Honorius beckoned us to approach him.

We obeyed in silence.

Perhaps he may recover, said the peasant, regarding the dead animal with a look of the tenderest compassion, blended with doubt; perhaps he may yet recover, said he, taking a bottle which contained a little water out of a panner, a pair of which lay on the ground near him. I will give him some of this water; who knows, continued he, wiping away a tear that obstructed his sight, who knows but Heaven may restore him to me!

Having, with some difficulty, forced open the mouth of the ass, he poured a little water, the remnant of his almost-exhausted bottle into it.

Little as it was, it was his ALL.

But,

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But, alas ! his ALL would not do.

The poor beast shewed not the least symptom of returning life.

What a trial was this for his afflicted master !

He walked round him and round him, still endeavouring to deduce hope from what was evidently calculated only to increase his despair.

His endeavours were, however, ineffectual.

The vital spark was for ever extinguished.

Dead ! dead ! dead ! said the peasant, gently lifting up his hoof. Thou faithful partner of my daily labour ! dead ! dead ! dead ! Shall I never more behold thee ? never more trace the print of thy footsteps irregularly engraven on the unconscious glebe ? never more trudge pensively by thy side along the pleasing paths of sober meditation ?

Alas !

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Alas ! alas ! thy eyes are closed in death, nor art thou sensible of my affliction.

Have I not continually reduced thy burthen, by sharing it with thee ? Have I not invariably removed the difficulties that retarded thy journies ? And have I not constantly cheered thee with my song ?

If thy fare was hard, mine was hard also. The same roof under which I slept, afforded likewise a shelter to thee. I never tasted a crust, however scant, of which thou wert not a partaker ; nor did I ever indulge myself in an evening's draught, but thou also hadst thy portion.

But thou art gone ! Thou art gone !  
And—

I shall never behold thee more !

Yes ! but I *may* behold thee, said he, after some hesitation.

I may

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I may behold thee at the final restitution of all things. I may behold thee in a situation that may happily counterbalance the unnumbered evils thou hast hitherto so patiently endured. For the Almighty and merciful Father never intended that even the services of a poor ass should go without their reward.

\* \* \* \* \*

The strain of universal charity and benevolence which so peculiarly distinguished the rustic's sentiments, more than ever impressed us with a favourable opinion of him.

What manner of man is this, said Honorius, who so widely differs in sentiment from the mean and contracted notions of his fellow creatures! But thus is the world taught philosophy and charity, by those whom prejudice bids us despise.

Oh:

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Oh Pride! Pride! drop thy plume!

\* \* \* \* \*

The peasant informed us, that he set out that morning with the intention of going to Maidenhead market, which lay between three and four miles distant.

It was his weekly task,

His business there was to dispose of the produce of his garden, with which his ass was laden, but the poor animal, worn out with age and infirmities, and unable to proceed, had expired under his burthen, in the manner we had been spectators of.

Nothing therefore now remains, said the peasant, but that, I carry the load myself.

And God knows, concluded he, the tear still swelling in his eye, I am little able!

Now

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Now the peasant was considerably advanced in years.

His locks, which were as white as snow, pleaded for him with the most persuasive rhetoric.

It was impossible to resist their eloquence.

Every faculty of the soul became insensibly their advocate.

Thou shalt have the best as money can purchase : said Honorius.

I shall, however, never meet with his fellow : replied the peasant.

Neither will it, I fear, be less difficult to meet with *thy* fellow : said Honorius.

\* \* \* \* \*

A house that shewed itself at a trifling distance, gave Honorius an opportunity of inviting the unfortunate man to accompany us thither.

Without



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Without returning any answer to this invitation, he took up his panniers and followed us in silence, casting every moment a mournful look towards the spot where he had left the dead body of his faithful favourite.

His heart was yet too full to admit of any other object.

The loss he sustained was too strongly impressed upon his memory.

It was a loss to him irreparable.

I wish, said Honorius, addressing himself to me, I wish, Euphrastus, to be better acquainted with this poor creature.

Perhaps it may be in our power to assist him.

At least, said I, the experiment will do us no discredit.

Honorius, immediately upon entering the house, intimated to him our desire.

There is a certain something in your countenance, said he, that makes us desirous

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desirous of being acquainted with the particulars of your history.

It is a melancholy one: said the peasant.

CHAP.

## C H A P. III.

OF truly honest and industrious, though exceedingly poor, parents am I descended. I was their only child. The education they bestowed upon me was such as corresponded with their circumstances. Reading, writing, and some small knowledge of accounts, constituted the gross sum of my learning; yet, even with these acquirements, trifling as in fact they were, I gained a manifest superiority over the generality of my brother villagers, and such as not unfrequently subjected me to their envy and ill-nature.

As my parents had taken the earliest opportunity to instil in my mind the precepts of religion and charity, I never once harboured an ungenerous thought of them on this account, but, considering

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considering them collectively as my brethren and fellow-labourers, I was studious to render them every service which I was enabled to afford them.

Having lost both my father and mother, and being now arrived at years of maturity, I thought it time to look out for a wife.

Her love and tenderness, said I, will smooth the rugged road of life, and disperse the thousand cares and anxieties which invade the human heart.

Nor was I disappointed.

I was soon united to a very worthy woman, with whom I lived several years in a state the happiest that may be conceived.

To complete the felicity which abundantly crowded upon us, my wife declared herself pregnant.

This was a circumstance which I had long and ardently wished for.

It

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It was the subject of my constant prayer.

And the indulgence with which Heaven had thus crowned my desire, afforded me greater satisfaction than would the enjoyment of every honour in the power of monarchs to bestow.

But, alas ! how uncertain are all our prospects of happiness.

The hour that gave me a daughter, bereaved me of a wife.

In a moment, and before I had time to form so horrible an expectation, was she snatched from my embrace.

But the recollection of her shall ever dwell with me.

Yes ! dear faithful partner of my widowed bed ! Couldst thou be made sensible of the sincerity of my sorrows : could thy pure spirit hold communication with mortality : and mightest thou be permitted to witness the emotions of a soul still warm with the sense and  
memory

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memory of thy perfections, thou wouldst then be satisfied with the assurance, that neither time nor chance can ever erase the dear impression of thy image from my mind.

Even at this present moment, after an interval of more than twenty years, thy idea still fondly hangs about my heart; still mixes in every thought and in every action; and still reigns, with unfaded force, the sovereign of my soul and of my affections.

But thou art no more! Sweet excellence! thou art no more! Peace to thy ashes!

The daughter she had brought into the world, dearly as she was purchased, was now the object that engrossed all my care and my attention; nor did I spare any pains or expence, within the bounds of my contracted circumstances, to make her mistress of every accomplishment which her sex required.



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As she grew up, her person every day still more and more displayed beauties irresistible, and presented me with the perfect epitome of her deceased mother. The same mildness of deportment; the same meekness of thought; and the same captivating smile which involuntarily and instantaneously subdued the heart, as by enchantment, and which distinguished the mother above her fellows, might visibly be traced in the daughter. She never spoke but she wounded; she never looked but she triumphed.

A small farm, which became my property, in consequence of my marriage, barely enabled me, and not without difficulty, to provide for her and myself in a manner that kept us above the frowns of the world.

I, however, found it impossible, out of the trifle that arose from thence, to

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make

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make any reserve, as a provision against accidents.

Trusting, therefore, in Heaven to avert them, I laboured on chearfully, and blessed Providence that enabled me so to do.

My Emily was now in her seventeenth year: healthful as nature, and blooming as the May.

The many essential services she rendered me in my domestic concerns; the economy and neatness which she introduced into my little family, and the exactness and precision with which she regulated every department of my household, doubly endeared her to me, and made me set a value upon her most trifling actions.

She had, in a multiplicity of instances, given proof that she possessed a heart almost unequalled for charity, tenderness and compassion.

I was

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I was proud to behold those testimonies of her virtues.

They were the dearest and most invaluable objects of my contemplation.

Nor were my endeavours disappointed of their reward.

Every day led to the discovery of some new perfection; and every hour witnessed an increase to my happiness.

But I now come, unwillingly, to the relation of a circumstance that destroyed all the flattering expectations which I had so long indulged, and which was the foundation of the subsequent chain of miseries I was doomed to the experience of.

It was on a cold, inclement evening, towards the latter end of November. The rain fell; the wind blew; and the face of Heaven was veiled with horror and with darkness.

I was just upon the eve of retiring to rest, and already had I begun to make

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preparations for that purpose, when I was alarmed by a sudden and loud rapping at the door.

Upon my hastening to learn the reason of so unseasonable a visit, I was accosted by a stranger of genteel appearance, who begged of my hospitality a protection from the fury of the storm.

In such a night I could not have refused so trifling a favour even to a dog.

How much less then to a fellow-creature in distress!

Having put his horse in the stable, I returned to give him such assistance as his disagreeable situation required.

As he was dripping with wet, and benumbed with cold, I immediately stirred up the expiring embers, and, with the help of a fresh faggot, soon caused him to forget all his sorrows.

He informed me that he was going to a neighbouring village, near which he had a house; but, being unable to proceed,

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proceed, by reason of the weather, and luckily perceiving a light in my cabin, he availed himself of that opportunity to solicit for a shelter.

I assured him he was welcome; and, the better to convince him that he was so, I spread before him the best my table afforded, which I begged him to partake of without ceremony.

Meanwhile the storm, instead of abating, visibly increased every moment.

The rain came pouring with additional violence; the wind blew a perfect hurricane; and Nature appeared as convulsed and disjointed in all her members.

It was now almost midnight.

Nor was it possible to think of proceeding through such extreme horrors.

And yet, how was I to act?

The beds I had were few; and of these each had its claimant.



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But he shall have mine: said I. I am much better able to bear the fatigue of sitting up than he is.

Besides, his situation demands it.

And will not the reflection of having been the instrument of ease and happiness to a fellow-creature, though but for a single hour, amply recompense the toil of one night's watching?

Why then should I hesitate?

CHAP.



C H A P. IV.

HAVING refreshed himself by a long and uninterrupted sleep, late the succeeding morning he left his apartment.

His first care was to return me thanks for the very liberal, though homely entertainment I had provided him, which he did by every expression that might be supposed to actuate a warm and a grateful heart.

Nor did his acknowledgment rest here.

He wished me to acquaint him in what manner he could best recompense the trouble he had been the occasion of to me.

It was his most ardent desire.

He should, he said, be for ever miserable to quit me, without being first permitted to express his gratitude.

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Nor must I deny him.

"Allow me then," said I, "your good wishes: they will comprehend in themselves every reward I can either hope for or desire.

"What I have performed, is no other than my duty; and God forbid, that from thence I should arrogate to myself the least degree of praise!"

He listened to me with astonishment.

The disinterestedness of my conduct surprized him.

It was what he was little accustomed to meet with, especially from those whose situation in life was like mine.

What a melancholy reflection!

Finding that it was impossible to prevail upon me to accept of the return his generosity seemed inclinable to make me, he prepared himself unwillingly to take his leave.

He had not yet seen Emily.

She

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She had retired to rest the preceding night, somewhat more early than she generally did, and long before he had applied for admission.

Just as he was going to bid me adieu, she unexpectedly made her appearance.

"My daughter, Sir," said I, as she approached us.

He eyed her with attention.

A single moment ripened it into admiration.

"Can this divine creature be in reality your daughter?" said he.

"Impossible!

"Her whole person speaks her acquainted with those graces and those accomplishments which can only be acquired by a long and intimate familiarity with the *etiquette* of a court.

"Where then could she procure them?"

Emily thanked him for his gallantry, with a simplicity truly natural and un-

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affected; whilst her blushes, which every moment increased, gave an additional force to her beauty, and such as it was impossible to behold without emotion.

She knew too little of the world, to suppose that the most extravagant encomium generally originates from insincerity.

The plain, the simple manner in which she was usually addressed by those in whose bosoms candour took place of compliment, made her the more readily attend to what the present occasion produced.

The novelty of it pleased her so much, that she durst not discredit the truth of it.

It is the general error of the sex; and the most unanswerable proof of the extreme frailty of our nature!

Shortly afterwards, our guest departed; not, however, without first promising

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missing to renew his acquaintance with us.

As I then had no suspicion of the motive which induced him to make this promise, I considered it as an act of condescension in him, and as such, thanked him, assuring him, at the same time, that he might ever depend upon meeting with a hearty welcome, and the best entertainment I had in my power to offer him.

No sooner was he gone, than I enquired of Emily, what opinion she was disposed to entertain of him?

She was unacquainted with the art of dissimulation: neither was it in her disposition to feign.

She therefore readily delivered her sentiments without reserve.

I found thereby, that, short as their acquaintance was, he was not entirely indifferent to her.



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This, however, was no cause of uneasiness to me.

I trusted that her prudence would ever rise superior to her passions: and the well-known goodness of her heart gave me every reason to be satisfied, that she herself was the best guardian of her own honour.

Mr. Hastings (for such I afterwards found was the name of the gentleman whom Fortune had thus accidentally brought me acquainted with) was, in respect to his person, elegantly proportioned. His height was somewhat under that which is usually denominated the middle size: his countenance clear and expressive, and his eyes uncommonly quick and piercing.

No wonder then that his figure, considerably heightened and improved by a pleasing and insinuating address, should make some impression upon a mind young and unexperienced like her's.

It



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It was not, however, of a nature calculated to create the least alarm, but, on the contrary, was such as a very inconsiderable portion of time and of reflection, promised easily and effectually to eradicate.

As I did not wish Emily to betray any marks of insensibility, I was the rather pleased with the trial, as it gave me an opportunity of penetrating into the real disposition of her soul.

I perceived, what I all along believed, that her affections were of a nature apt to take fire; that her heart might easily be moulded into any shape or form you chose to give it, and that the tenderness of her feelings would, some time or other, expose her to dangers which would require the utmost exertions she was mistress of to surmount.

All this I was thoroughly persuaded of, without once suffering a single disagreeable

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agreeable idea to invade my tranquility, or to disturb my repose.

I knew her to be both morally and constitutionally virtuous, and I trusted that she would ever remain so.

In a few days, agreeable to his promise, Mr. Hastings favoured us with a second visit.

His dress displayed a much greater degree of taste and elegance than before, and which seemed, according to my judgment, to have been artfully selected for the present occasion.

The addition his whole person received by reason hereof, is not easily to be credited.

He looked infinitely more amiable, his eyes had a double portion of fire and of vivacity implanted in them, and his every feature appeared more pleasant and more enlivened.

After a very common and uninteresting conversation between us, he gave

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gave me to understand, that he had something particular to communicate, and wished me therefore to favour him with my attention.

Requesting him to proceed, he addressed me as follows :

“ Your late very generous behaviour to me at a time when I so particularly needed the reception I met with, and the disinterestedness of your conduct afterwards, in so nobly declining the trifling acknowledgment I would have made in consideration of the trouble I had been the occasion of to you, continue so fresh in my memory, that I am incapable of rest or happiness, until I am permitted in some measure to reward them.

“ A farm upon my estate, of considerable value and extent, is, at present, vacant.

“ I would wish you to take the management of it ; and, in order that no impediment may lie in the way, I will myself

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myself take upon me to stock it in a manner that you cannot disapprove of.

“Here, if you should think my offer worth your acceptance, you will be enabled to live more agreeably; you may insure to yourself, not only the conveniences, but also the comforts of life; you will have the satisfaction of reposing from toil, and of thereby enjoying your old age in peace; and I shall have the pleasure of adding to the catalogue of my felicities, the friendship and acquaintance of a worthy man.”

CH A P.

C H A P. V.

THE great and singular advantages which evidently attended this seemingly-disinterested offer, were such as allowed but of very little hesitation.

Need I therefore add, that I readily consented to a proposal so apparently calculated for my own benefit; and, that, in consequence thereof, I was soon afterwards situated in a manner so agreeable, as left me not a wish ungratified?

My Emily now more than ever engaged my attention.

She was the pride, the stay, and the glory of my age.

Ever interested in her happiness, I provided her with masters for the purpose of instructing her in those accomplishments.

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plishments usually bestowed upon the sex.

Nor was my care in the least misapplied.

The improvement she daily and rapidly made in those pursuits, was such as gave me every reason to rest satisfied with her endeavours.

One acquisition increased her eagerness for another, and, as she improved in knowledge, she became the more desirous of it.

Mr. Hastings, who had an elegant and well-chosen library, furnished her with books in every science, and even assisted her in unraveling those intricacies, and in clearing up those obscurities which surpassed her wisdom, and exceeded her comprehension.

By these means her mind and her understanding were enlarged, and her whole soul received a polish, which, heightening and improving the charms  
of



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of her person, gave a delicacy to her wit, which assisted her conquests, and which ripened the passion that her beauty every where inspired.

I hope I may be excused dwelling upon these particulars.

The perfections and the excellencies of a virtuous and dutiful daughter cannot too forcibly be related.

The remembrance of them is now the only thing that administers satisfaction to my old age, nor will a generous mind refuse to sympathize with the feelings of a father, whether they arise from pleasure or from pain.

In this manner, happy beyond conception, and unacquainted with those evils which so often distract the peace and quiet of individuals, did we continue upwards of two years in the enjoyment of every real delight which the human heart might crave the possession of.

Mr.

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Mr. Hastings was almost our only visitor.

Regular in his attendance upon us, he scarcely ever permitted a day to pass without sacrificing some part of it to us.

Nor, yet in all his frequent visits, did he ever come unwelcome or even unwished for.

The freedom and vivacity which so peculiarly distinguished his behaviour, added to his earnest endeavours to please, never failed of making us desirous of his presence as often as he could make it convenient to himself.

Poor Emily, by accustoming herself to his conversation, was never so unhappy as when deprived of it.

And, as the cultivation and enlargement of her understanding seemed no less the object of his care than mine, he was a favourite of so singular a stamp, as required no slight art to supplant.

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plant or to dispossess him of the place he held in her esteem.

Frequent and familiar as were their interviews, he never once, in all this time, gave her any reason to suppose that he entertained the least desire towards her above what he might have conceived for the most indifferent of her sex.

Friendship, and simply friendship, seemed to actuate him in all he did.

This was his profession, nor did that profession go hitherto destitute of confirmation by his actions.

The event, however, shewed that those actions were all founded on the blackest and most unexampled hypocrisy ; and, that in spite of appearances, and in spite of the open and apparent sincerity that marked his behaviour, his soul was a composition of cruelty and lust, and himself destitute, shamefully destitute of every principle of friendship,

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friendship, honour, generosity, or even manhood.

Trusting, however, in the fond and fatal belief that he possessed virtues which were as opposite to his nature as Heaven from Hell, I harboured not the least distrust of him, but, on the contrary, I ever rejoiced in his presence as in that of my greatest friend and most esteemed benefactor.

Whilst I was thus eagerly embracing every opportunity to convince him with how real and unaffected a regard I contemplated his virtues, was he, like a base assassin, planing the everlasting destruction of my peace and happiness.

A relation, of whom I had but few, was ill, and requested my attendance.

I could not refuse him, especially as it was most probable I might never more behold him on this side the grave; a conjecture which both his age and infirmities helped to support.

As

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As his residence was little short of twenty miles from the place of my present abode, I informed Emily, upon my taking leave of her, that she might not expect me back till the succeeding day.

The uncertainty of events of this sort, and knowing that people too generally leave their affairs unsettled to the last moments of their existence, naturally led me to conclude, that my return the same day would be utterly impracticable.

Nor did my judgment at all deceive me.

I found my sick kinsman upon the very verge of eternity, senseless, motionless, and unable to recollect who or what I was.

In this state of insensibility he continued till late in the evening, and then peaceably departed, without a pang, and without a groan.

His

## 48 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

His effects he had by will equally divided amongst all his relations, a bequest, which, however trifling in itself, was at least a proof that he wished thereby to avoid contentions and animosities of every kind, which too frequently arise from the partiality of the dead, and the avarice of the living.

Having assisted in the formation of some certain necessary regulations which mutually concerned us all, the very day succeeding that of my departure from home, and agreeable to my original intention, I returned.

The first person I enquired after, was Emily.

She was ever foremost in my mind and in my imagination; and, as I had scarcely ever, during a period of nineteen years, been absent from her so long together, I was more eagerly desirous of seeing her than was usual with me.

I was,



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I was, indeed, rather disappointed in not perceiving her hasten to meet me, as on former occasions she had, and as I expected she now would.

But what tongue will attempt to express my surprize upon being informed that she, my Emily, my daughter, the pride of my eye, and the prop of my age, had been absent all night; and that the servants were all equally unable to account for such a circumstance!

At first, I could with difficulty be brought to credit the intelligence. Her virtues, her prudence, her many amiable and excellent qualities, and, above all, the sense which she invariably entertained of her duty and of her affection to her parent, all contributed alike to reject such a belief, as founded on absurdity and manifest inconsistency.

Finding, however, that I had but too much reason to rest satisfied of

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50 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

the truth of the relation I had received, I was like one distracted.

I ran up and down the house in a wild and frantic manner, whilst a thousand horrid ideas crowded upon my imagination, and transformed me into the veriest wretch that drew the vital air.

Wherever her image had been used to bless my sight; wherever had been the scene of our happiest conversation, or wherever I was accustomed to contemplate her virtues, now served only to increase my affliction.

From room to room, from place to place, insensible of what I was doing, I wandered about in vain, seeking for her.

I looked for her, but found her not. I called her, but received no answer.

Thus

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 51

Thus disappointed in all my endeavours, and rendered almost incapable of action, I sunk upon the floor, lost, pale, and spiritless.

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C H A P. VI.

IN this forlorn and miserable condition I lay a considerable while a prey to anguish inexpressible, and unable to put in practice any measure which might tend to alleviate a part of my sufferings, or be the means of bringing me acquainted with the real cause of her absence.

I sometimes thought of going to Mr. Hastings, and enquiring of him whether his knowledge or memory furnished him with aught that might assist me in the search of her.

These thoughts were, however, no sooner formed than rejected.

I condemned them as idle and impolitic :

And I determined, as the only means of insuring her reputation, to wait as  
patiently

patiently as possible, in hopes that she would return, and, by so doing, eradicate the unfavourable impression which her absence had naturally created.

Whilst I was thus ruminating within myself in what manner it was most advisable to act, I was, of a sudden, surprized with what I so much wished for—the appearance of Emily.

She was in tears :

Her hair was dishevelled ; her garments hung loose and disordered, and her eyes appeared red and swollen with grief and passion.

Greatly as I was alarmed at such symptoms of distress, I was, nevertheless, pleased once more to behold her in any circumstances.

She was my daughter, and nature pleaded in her behalf.

“ Ah, my Emily !” said I, “ where hast thou been ? What ails my child ? And how is it that I see thee thus sur-

54 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

rounded with such visible marks of affliction? Speak! I charge thee! Hide nothing from thy father; a father who loves thee with the tenderest affection, and whose happiness is so closely and inseparably connected with thine, that even the highest of human felicities would avail him nothing, wert thou not a partaker in them."

To this short, though sincere address, which was delivered at intervals, and intermixed with deep and repeated sighs, she was for a while incapable of making any reply, otherwise than by a renewal of her lamentations.

Having, however, somewhat relieved the excessive weight of her spirits, by a timely and liberal discharge of her tears, she answered me in the following manner:

"Not without cause; not without cause, my father! do I appear thus over-



THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 55

overwhelmed with griefs, and pressed down by sorrows :

“ It is the natural and unavoidable consequence of my sufferings.

“ Oh ! Can’st thou believe it ? Hastings—is a villain !”

“ Heavens !” said I, “ sure he dared not——”

“ He is a base, mean, cowardly villain !” continued she, interrupting me ; “ and had not a power, superior to his, graciously interposed for my preservation, I tremble to think where his *daring* might have terminated.

“ But I have still left the satisfaction of returning to a father’s embrace, pure and unstained ; a circumstance that administers me pleasure in the midst of all my sufferings, and which will not fail to confirm to me a continuance of the same paternal love and tenderness which I have hitherto experienced, and

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which, I trust, I shall ever entertain a due and proper sense of."

"Thou can'st never forfeit them:" replied I. "Thy prudence and thy virtues are sufficient to make thee deserving of them under every change and revolution of fortune.

"But proceed! Inform me of the whole that has happened unto thee. Every event, every circumstance, that affects my Emily, affects, in an equal degree, me also."

Thus encouraged, she addressed me (still visibly labouring under great and excessive anguish of mind) in nearly the following manner:

"No sooner was you yesterday departed; no sooner had you bidden your Emily adieu, than, invited by the uncommon beauty of the day, I, almost without knowing it, walked forth into the adjoining mead, which had so often  
been

been the scene of my happiest meditations.

“ I had scarcely leisure to indulge a single thought, before I perceived Mr. Hastings, at a distance, approaching the place where I then was.

“ This circumstance in no wise displeased me, more especially as I hoped from his conversation to be the better enabled to shake off a certain melancholy that had unaccountably taken possession of my spirits, and which discoloured every object that I looked upon.

“ After having agreeably entertained me in discourse for a considerable while, during all which time he treated me with the same delicacy and respect that he had evermore invariably observed towards me, he insisted upon my accompanying him to his own house, in the neighbourhood of which

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we had insensibly strayed, without perceiving that we had so.

“As, from his behaviour to me, I had no reason to suspect him of any design, I readily acquiesced in his desire.

“Being now arrived at his house, we immediately found admittance, and our conversation, as before, took a turn equally agreeable and interesting.

“Thus fully employed, we past away the time, till the approach of evening warned me to depart, when, preparing myself for that purpose, to my great and inexpressible surprize, he gave me to understand, that it was not his intention to part with me so easily.

“Alarmed, for the first time, I requested him to explain his meaning.

“Is it then possible,” said he, “that you can really be ignorant that I love you; that my very soul is wrapped  
“ up

THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 59

" up in you; and that all my hopes  
" of happiness are centred in you,  
" and in you alone?"

" What would you have?" said I.

" The return my passion merits:"  
replied he.

" So far as virtue may justify and  
" warrant a return," said I, " so far  
" you have no reason to complain."

" And will you then, my dear girl,"  
said he, " suffer the prejudices of edu-  
" cation to rise up in opposition to the  
" more generous dictates of nature and  
" of constitution?"

" Virtue is, it is true, a fine ro-  
" mantic notion, excellently adapted to  
" the purpose of those whose ignorance  
" or imbecility renders them either too  
" blind to perceive, or too weak to act.  
" But shall we, whose minds and bodies  
" are alike strong and perfect, prove  
" perverse and rebellious against the  
" laws of reason and of love? Shall we



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“disingenuously suppress the purest  
“and most refined emotions of the  
“soul, merely because such a conduct  
“would entitle us to the approbation  
“of grey-headed enthusiasts, who are  
“incapable of relishing the pleasure  
“they so senselessly condemn? For  
“shame: reject a sentiment so injurious  
“to your beauty!”

“I now began, not without pain, to  
perceive for a certainty the point to-  
wards which his discourse was directed.  
I perceived it, and I trembled at the  
idea it conveyed. It was a horrid  
one.

“Farewell, Sir!” said I, passing  
him in a direct line towards the door  
of the apartment where we had been  
sitting, “farewell, Sir! It is time that  
“I should leave you. Some future  
“opportunity I may most probably  
“attempt to combat your arguments.  
“At



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“ At present it is necessary that I bid  
“ you adieu.”

“ Upon my reaching the door, to  
my everlasting disappointment, I found  
that it was secured in a manner that  
defied all my endeavours to open it.

“ This discovery terrified me.

“ I immediately concluded that my  
ruin was inevitable :

“ And full of this persuasion, I threw  
myself down in a chair that stood near  
at hand, and, without uttering a syl-  
lable, burst into a flood of tears.

“ Unmoved by the situation to which  
he saw me reduced, the unfeeling au-  
thor of my sorrows, as if glorying in  
my dejection, addressed me thus :

“ You now, Emily, are convinced  
“ that you are absolutely and entirely  
“ in my power. I have long been de-  
“ sirous of so favourable an opportu-  
“ nity, and it will be my fault if I neg-  
“ lect

## 62 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

"left to turn the present one to my  
"advantage."

"Then I am indeed lost!" said I.

"I could say no more, my senses  
forsook me, and I fell lifeless upon the  
ground.

CHAP.

CHAPTER VII.

"HOW long I continued in this state of insensibility," continued she, "I am unable to say.

"The first object that struck my attention, however, upon my recovery, was Mr. Hastings, who visibly appeared to exult in the contemplation of the pain he had been the instrument of to me.

"The sight of him immediately restored to my memory the full horror of my situation. I started; I trembled; I was upon the verge of relapsing into my former condition; and I devoutly looked up to Heaven as my only hope, and as my only refuge.

"Nor was I disappointed.

"That Being in whom I placed my dependence, and from whom alone I  
looked

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looked for support and protection, graciously extended his aid to me, by strengthening me to undergo the trial I was reserved for, in a manner that neither tended to my own abasement, nor added to the unmanly triumph of my inhuman adversary.

“ Finding that I was restored, though imperfectly, to the use and enjoyment of my senses, he once more began his odious importunities, all of which, however, I firmly and resolutely withstood, and treated with the contempt they so deservedly merited.

“ This steady and consistent behaviour of mine, occasioned a sudden and instantaneous alteration in his manner of proceeding, equally replete with meanness and brutality, and such as would disgrace the most uncivilized of human creatures.

“ For, perceiving the very slight impression made upon me by the former  
mer

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 65

mer part of his conduct, he presently exchanged his arguments and his supplications, into imprecations and threats.

“ Proud, ungrateful woman !” said he. “ But think not to reap any advantage from your contumacy. Be assured such an expectation is vain and idle. For since you seem determined to remain unmoved, against the power of prayers and intreaties, it is necessary that you should be convinced with what ease I am enabled to take what you so obstinately deny.”

“ No sooner had he concluded these insolent expressions, than he proceeded to put his menaces in execution.

“ Strengthened and upheld by that Power in whom I placed my faith and my hope, I repelled his violence with a firmness of mind that at once disappointed him of his expected harvest,  
and



## 66 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

and excited his admiration at what he was unable to account for.

“ The opposition he met with, served but the more to increase his rage, now almost rendered desperate, and set him upon inventing some new method whereby to effect the conquest he was so desirous of.

“ His invention and his ingenuity, however, for once failed him.

“ All his art was unprofitably bestowed, and all his stratagems were happily frustrated, in the following manner:

“ One of his servants, alarmed by the uncommon noise which his behaviour to me had occasioned, and determined to discourage, as much as in him lay, so manifest an outrage upon the laws of virtue and hospitality, by a sudden and timely application of his foot to the door of the apartment, instantly burst it open.

The



THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 67

The confusion this circumstance was the immediate instrument of, interrupted, for the present, the further prosecution of his design, whilst the full measure of his indignation, which by this time seemed to know no bounds, was unreasonably directed towards the unhappy intruder as the object most worthy his vengeance.

It was now almost midnight, and, perceiving how little I was disposed to yield an obedience to his will, he addressed me thus :

“ For the temporary respite you enjoy,  
“ I you are indebted only to the fool who  
“ so rudely and so unexpectedly broke in  
“ upon my privacy, but who, believe  
“ me, shall dearly repent of his rashness.

“ I will now leave you to your private meditations : perhaps a few hours  
“ may serve to reconcile you to my pleasure, and by that means render any  
“ further

66 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

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“ may serve to reconcile you to my pleasure, and by that means render any  
“ further

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“further instance of my power unnecessary.”

“So saying, he quitted the room, and left me to ruminate on the danger of my situation, which every moment became additionally critical, and which, notwithstanding the resolution I manifested, still filled me with the most dreadful and alarming apprehensions.

“I was not without hopes, as I was now no longer restrained by his presence, of making some discovery that might assist me in effecting my escape.

“These hopes were, however, vain.

“For, after the minutest search, I was fain to relinquish the attempt, and once more dispose myself to endure the attacks of him whom I now justly began to behold with abhorrence.—

“Early the succeeding morning, Mr. Hastings made his re-appearance.

“He was somewhat less violent than when I last saw him; a circumstance which

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which I greatly interpreted in my favour, and, in consequence thereof, eagerly seized an opportunity that offered itself so unexpectedly, to expostulate with him on the barbarity and inhumanity of his treatment respecting me.

“ You profess to love me ;” said I :  
“ wherein do you shew that love ? Am  
“ I to seek for it in the bosom of cruelty  
“ and violence ? or is love only subservi-  
“ ent to grosser and inferior passions ?

“ If you really have an affection for  
“ me, why am I thus unaccountably and  
“ wantonly deprived of my liberty ?  
“ Think you thereby to promote a mu-  
“ tual inclination on my side, or is it,  
“ your opinion that severity may effect  
“ that which persuasion cannot ?

“ In either case, you strangely de-  
“ ceive yourself ; for, be assured, I will  
“ brave any danger, nay death itself, ra-  
“ ther than tamely submit to yield my-  
“ self



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“self a willing sacrifice to lawless violence.”

“These romantic expressions, Madam,” replied he, “will prove but of little service to you, believe me.

“You complain of the severity of my conduct to you. Ought I not equally to condemn the cruelty of yours to me? What will justify the one, will serve no less to absolve the other.

“However, as you may, most probably, stand in need of some refreshment, I shall wave all further discourse on this subject for the present, and, in the mean time, request of you that you take some food, which, from your long fast, you cannot but have occasion for.

“Never, never!” said I, “can I consent to partake of the veriest morsel, until I am fully and effectually released  
“ed



THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 71

“ed from the cruel restraint to which  
“ I am at present subjected.

“ Restore to me my freedom, restore  
“ to me the liberty you found me in pos-  
“ session of, and you shall have no reason  
“ to complain of one who is only obsti-  
“ nate in proportion to the regard she  
“ entertains for virtue and her own  
“ honour, a regard which she trusts she  
“ shall ever continue to entertain for  
“ them to the latest period of her exist-  
“ ence.”

“ Well then,” replied he, “ be it so.  
“ Since you are determined to remain  
“ wilfully and perversely disobedient to  
“ my will, I must try some other me-  
“ thod to subdue your pride.”

“ Having thus delivered himself, he  
turned from me with a scornful air,  
and once more left me to ruminate as  
before.

“ Three tedious hours was I employ-  
ed in conjecturing in what manner he  
intended

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intended putting his threats in execution.

“ But all to no purpose.

“ His absence alarmed me infinitely more than would the actual weight of his collected indignation.

“ I was prepared for the one. I was unable to account for the other.

“ After having kept me a long time in the most cruel suspense, occasioned by the uncertainty I laboured under in respect to my fate, he again made his appearance.

“ You are now, Madam,” said he, to my agreeable astonishment, “ at liberty  
“ to return home as soon as you please.

“ Think not, however, because I  
“ have permitted you to escape at present, that I therefore intend entirely  
“ to give over the pursuit.

“ Do not deceive yourself with so  
“ idle an hope.

“ A very

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 73

“ A very short interval of time elapsed, will once more assuredly witness  
“ a renewal of my attempt. Till then  
“ adieu !”

“ Without waiting a single moment longer than I could help, I quitted him, and hastened home to restore peace and comfort to the heart of an afflicted father, a father whose happiness is to me of more value than all else the world affords.”

## C H A P. VIII.

AFTER this manner, continued the peasant, did my daughter conclude the recital of an adventure, which nothing less surprized than distressed me.

I was nevertheless thankful that she was restored to me, without which I should have been eternally miserable, and I prepared myself for the worst that might be apprehended from a man who had, in so recent an instance, given proof how capable he was of committing the greatest and most atrocious of crimes.

The mists of error which had so long surrounded me, began now to disappear.

I beheld the conduct of Mr. Hastings, from the first moment of our acquaintance, in quite a different light from  
what

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 75

what I had formerly been used to consider it.

That piety which I once admired in him, now appeared as hypocrisy; his simplicity, as art; his seeming openness, as cunning; and his generosity as founded on the most sordid selfishness.

I was therefore determined to be armed against him as my most inveterate and avowed enemy; and I regretted that I had so readily accepted of his invitation of taking the farm, which, however it might be the means of supplying us with the superfluities of life, would, nevertheless, but poorly atone for the loss of our everlasting peace, the too probable sacrifice of continuing in our present situation.

“Ah why,” said I, “was I prevailed upon to quit the spot which had been time out of mind the habitation of my fore-fathers?”

E 2

“Curbed

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“Curbed by no master, insulted by no superior, nor in anywise subject to the pleasure and caprice of others, I wanted for nothing. My meals, though coarse, were eat in cheerfulness; and my couch, though hard, was unfurrowed with sorrow. Care never intruded upon my repose, nor was my bread watered with my tears.”

Scarce had I given full utterance to these reflections, before Mr. Hastings entered, attended by several ill-looking fellows, who immediately surrounded me, and informed me that I was their prisoner.

Upon further enquiry, I learnt, to my no small astonishment, that I was arrested at the suit of my landlord, for a considerable sum, which he had lent me for the purpose of stocking the farm at the time of my taking possession of it.



## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 77

My Emily too was included in the writ.

Several toys and trinkets which Mr. Hastings had from time to time made her a present of, served him now as an instrument to gratify the meanest of all passions,—revenge.

Thus, as if determined to set no bounds to his wickedness, he gradually advanced from crime to crime, rejoicing inwardly at the misery he was so industriously heaping on the heads of the innocent, and only anxious to produce and bring about the grand end and design, the final accomplishment of which had taken such absolute and entire possession of his mind and of his will.

The manifest perfidy which marked the conduct of Mr. Hastings on this occasion, I lamented much less on my own account, than on that of my child, my Emily.

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The delicacy of her sex and constitution was but poorly fitted to experience the horrors inseparable to a gaol; and yet the intrepidity of her soul was superior to every thing.

“Let us go, my father,” said she, a soft and heavenly serenity diffusing itself as she spoke over her countenance; “let us go, my father! whilst our souls are yet clear of any acquaintance with vice: we shall find even in a prison that happiness which our persecutor will never arrive at the knowledge of, though sheltered in a palace.”

I owned the force, the justness of her sentiments; and humbling myself before the throne of Him whose wisdom tries the heart and the reins, I accompanied her, silently accompanied her, to a place horrid beyond imagination.

Let those, to whom Misfortune has rendered familiar scenes of this sort, let those judge what were my feelings  
upon

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 79

upon entering this house of woe! Such only are capable of forming an idea of what description wants words to give life and colours to.

Nine months were we confined to this wretched habitation, forsaken by the few friends whom we formerly boasted, trampled on by our enemies, and deprived of every comfort and of every convenience necessary to make life tolerable. Even our cloaths were almost all of them disposed of, so that we had scarcely left us a sufficiency to answer the ordinary claims of decency.

Yet by means like this we alone extended our miserable existence, and without this, we had most assuredly perished.

My poor Emily, in the mean time, bore up with a fortitude that reflected on her the highest honour.

She was unceasing in her endeavours of rendering me those little services

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which might convey some fresh proof of her duty and of her affection, and which might administer, though ever so trivially, to my wants and to my wishes.

By her agreeable discourse, she chased away those cares which were perpetually intruding themselves upon my mind; and with her smiles she dispersed the natural gloom of the prison, and gave it all the charms of freedom, ease, and elegance.

But now I was to lose her sweet society, to lose it for ever !

My Emily, my dear and invaluable fellow-sufferer, was seized with the gaol distemper.

On the bare earth she lay pale, wan, and spiritless: her fine and delicate form extended carelessly to the rude gaze of the unfeeling rabble, without a hand to assist her, and without a friend to comfort her.

O Humanity, where is thy blush !  
Under

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 81

Under these circumstances, gracious God! how was I to act! My tears were the whole I could offer her, and these, she liberally, though unavailing-ly, partook of, even till their fountain was dry.

Trembling and faint, I approached the place where she lay. She was in her last agonies; and life was upon the point of quitting her for ever.

The sight was too much for me to support; and for the first time I experienced the full measure of human woe.

“O my father!” said she, in a faint tone of voice, which was nevertheless inexpressibly musical; “O my father! I am at last going to bid you an everlasting adieu. But be not afflicted there-at. That God who has graciously protected us to this day, will continue his protection and his providence to you, my father, when even the memory of

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your Emily shall no longer dwell in your imagination.

“ Oh! if ever your child was dear to you, if ever you received pleasure or satisfaction from the artless caresses of a daughter, a daughter who was invariably and zealously anxious to promote the felicity of her parent, let me beg, let me intreat you to bear this stroke without murmuring. It is the will of the Almighty, and who shall dispute his dispensations?”

Scarce had she ceased speaking before she breathed her last.

The genuine and unaffected strain of piety which marked her latest expressions, appeared to me as the effect of inspiration.

The counsel they conveyed I treasured up with the greatest care, and I was determined to regulate my conduct in conformity thereunto.

About



## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 83

About two months after this event, Mr. Hastings (whose revenge was now complete, and whose conscience, no doubt, upbraided him for all the evils he had been the author of to me and my unhappy child) sent me my discharge.

Upon my enlargement, I found that he had possessed himself of all my property; so that, although I no longer was a prisoner, I was nevertheless circumstanced in a manner that afforded me but a very unpleasing prospect, and greatly diminished the joy I should otherwise have received from my restoration to liberty.

All of a sudden, however, a thought struck me, that administered a ray of hope in the midst of the gloom that hung over me.

I called to mind the legacy bequeathed me by my deceased kinsman, to close whose eyes I had left my daughter a prey

#### 84 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

to lust and wantonness; a legacy which was in itself so very inconsiderable, that it was not till this moment I bestowed the least attention on it.

With my proportion hereof, amounting to about the sum of thirty pounds, I rented a small cottage, with a piece of ground adjoining, which I quickly turned into a tolerable kitchen garden, and, by disposing of the produce thereof, made shift, with pain, to earn a decent subsistence.

To enable me the better to pursue this scheme, I made a purchase of the ass, whose death you have so recently been spectators of.

A more faithful animal never trudged by the side of mortal. Ten years together he has been my only companion.

Patient in adversity and obedient in all things, ye sons of reason take example by him.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

WHAT a world is this, said Honorius.

And how mean, how little, how truly contemptible must any man, not totally and irrevocably lost to reflection, feel himself, when the vices and follies of his fellow creatures are had in remembrance before him!

With yet nearly half our journey unaccomplished, we have met with adventures more than sufficient to furnish us forth a lesson for the remainder of our lives.

And what do they all, without exception, amount to?

What, alas! was before but too well known to require further confirmation. Namely this; that man is a tyrant, blinded

## 86 THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE.

ed by his passions, and led away by his lusts, and that the boasted regulating principle within him, which we falsely denominate Reason, is too weak and too ineffectual to guide him safe amidst the storms and rocks of irregular appetites.

Whether we examine into the actions and dispositions of the prince or his meanest subject, the freeman or the slave, we still invariably find implanted in each, an ambitious and inordinate thirst after power, which once attained, only serves to render him vain, insolent, cruel and capricious, too proud to think, and too inflexible to feel.

Thus, in the grand pursuit of happiness, is he fatally made the instrument of uneasiness to himself, and of oppression to his neighbour.

But be it our care to alleviate those evils which we cannot recal, to pour the balm of ease into the wounds of the afflicted,

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 87

afflicted, and to wipe away the tear from the eye of unmerited reproach. It is the noblest study of our nature, and the most comformable to the end and design of our creation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Honorius enquired of the people of the house, if they could direct him where he could purchase an ass, in the room of him that was dead.

They directed him to Maidenhead.

The most likely place in the three kingdoms, to furnish you with what you enquire after, there being a wonderful variety of those animals in that town, said the landlord, with a broad grin.

Then you shall go with us to Maidenhead, said Honorius, addressing himself to the peasant.

But, what in the mean time will become of these? said the peasant, pointing

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ing towards the place where his panniers lay; which, together with their contents, he had, with much difficulty, brought from the spot where we first beheld him.

Be that my care: replied Honorius.

They shall be left here, and I will give such charge concerning them, that, upon your return, you may be at no loss in recovering them.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have observed, with some surprize, said Honorius, as we travelled along, still addressing himself to the peasant, that the style of your language is greatly superior to what might naturally be expected from your situation in life.

And are observation and reflection then, said the peasant, solely confined to the circle of the sciences? Shall sense and reason take up their habitation only  
in



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in colleges, or contract a familiarity alone with the rich and the great? And, must a man's knowledge be extended or reduced, but in proportion to the number of his acres?

I grant you that education gives a polish to nature; that it opens and enlightens the understanding, enlarges the heart, and multiplies and improves every idea and faculty of the soul. Yet surely something is due to capacity and inclination, something to a solicitude to learn, and much to genius and attention.

I before observed to you, that Mr. Hastings had furnished my Emily with a variety of books in almost every science, from which she was continually gleaning improvement and information. I too, induced partly by her example, but much more so by a natural desire after knowledge, devoted my leisure hours to so pleasing a duty, and, in consequence thereof, found what I so eagerly

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eagerly sought for, my mind enlightened and my ideas enlarged.

This, perhaps, may account to you for any little peculiarity you might have remarked in my sentiments and expressions, which, if they manifest aught worthy of commendation, it must justly and solely be imputed to an inclination to learn, and a capacity to retain.

\* \* \* \* \*

Before we had well proceeded half over the thicket, we were of a sudden alarmed by a deep groan, which seemed to issue from a person in great pain, at a considerable distance from the road side.

Directed by the sound, we made no delay in reaching the place, which we no sooner arrived at, than we perceived a man genteely dressed, lying with his face to the earth, weltering in his blood,  
and

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and to all appearance upon the very point of breathing his last.

This sight affected us in a manner such as deprived us of all motion, and rendered us for a while incapable of affording him the least assistance.

A second groan, however, more violent than the former, instantly roused our attention, and called forth an exertion of our pity and compassion, till then suppressed by our surprize and admiration, due to a scene so new and unexpected.

The moment Raymond and the peasant had procured a full view of the stranger's countenance, they stood immoveable with astonishment.

Rivettèd to the earth, and equally unable to advance or retreat, they continued gazing, as if unwilling to credit the testimony of their senses.

Ah! it is Mr. Hastings! said the peasant.

Not

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Not Mr. Hastings, but Lord Saintly !  
replied Raymond.

Gracious God ! said Honorius, can  
this be true ? What thinkest thou Eu-  
phrastus ?

I knew not what to think.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the complete catalogue of human  
events, there is no one can more for-  
cibly affect the heart, than when we be-  
hold our enemies humbled at our feet,  
the objects of our compassion.

On such an occasion, a generous mind  
will immediately forego its resentment,  
and confess no other emotion than what  
arises from pity, and an eagerness to  
discharge the sacred duties of huma-  
nity.

This was exactly the case with those  
whom he had so materially injured.

They

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They in a moment forgot their wrongs, and, as if actuated by one soul and by one spirit, proposed, each at the same instant, to convey him to the town, the western point of which visibly appeared at no very great distance.

Honorius and I in the mean time were fully employed in endeavouring to restore the wounded man to his senses.

This we had no sooner in some measure effected, than faintly lifting up his eyes, he perceived Raymond and the peasant standing before him.

A sight so unexpected affected him in a manner equally strange and surprising.

Just God! said he, why am I tormented with the presence of those whom above all others I ought to dread? Was there no other way to punish me, that thou shouldest choose these as the instruments

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struments of thy wrath? Hide me, O earth! and ye mountains fall upon me!

Here! here! continued he, addressing himself to those who had so much reason to hate him, here! behold this breast, it is open to your vengeance. I wish not to avoid it: I deserve it all; justly deserve it. And if there is a God,—Oh! that thought makes me tremble!

He was unable to proceed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Seeing that he was somewhat recovered, Raymond and the peasant once more renewed their proposal of conveying him to Maidenhead.

Honorius commended their charity.

It was an unquestionable proof that their hearts were unacquainted with those passions which operate upon the vulgar.



## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 95

It was a proof too of their humanity,  
and such a one as conferred on them  
the highest honour.

CHAP.

## C H A P. X.

THE various adventures which the day had given birth to, furnished us with so much matter for observation and reflection, and thereby necessarily created such delay, that the evening was advancing with rapid strides, before we had yet reached the place to which our steps were directed.

The first object, however, that engrossed our care, upon our arrival at the inn, was, to give orders for the immediate attendance of a surgeon.

Nor were we long unprovided with one.

The blood still flowed so plentifully from his lordship, that we were under no small apprehension of his instant dissolution, an event which, for divers reasons, we wished at some distance, and  
amongst

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amongst which, a humane regard for his eternal happiness was not the least.

To rush into the presence of his Maker, "with all his imperfections on his head."

The idea was too horrid.

It shook the inmost recesses of the soul!

\* \* \* \* \*

Upon examination, his wound (which was evidently occasioned by the discharge of a pistol) appeared in so unpromising a state, that the surgeon, having, with difficulty, extracted the ball, and applied the proper dressings, thought it necessary to order him to be put to bed, without delay, giving us at the same time in charge, that we should not, upon any pretence whatever, attempt to disturb him.

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This injunction we scrupulously, and, with the utmost fidelity, discharged; and, thinking it almost time to partake of some refreshment (of which, considerably as the day was exhausted, we had scarcely found leisure for a morsel), we deputed Raymond to go and examine into the contents of the larder.

Whilst he was absent, on the execution of this commission, Honorius, in his usual manner, was lamenting the depravity of the times.

The comparison he made betwixt Lord Saintly, and the unhappy objects of his villany, was little to the advantage of the former.

The title with which he was distinguished, served only, in the eyes of Honorius, to render his crimes more conspicuous, and to enhance those vices  
which,

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which, in others, might have passed unnoticed.

Ah, who would desire to be great, said he, if greatness acts only as a pander to the passions ?

Let the courtly wretch, who prides himself alone in honours descended to him from a long line of illustrious ancestors, let him blush to think how those honours are disgraced by the enormity of his vices !

“ O that estates, degrees, and offices,  
Were not deriv'd corruptly ; that clear honour  
Were purchas'd by the merit of the wearer :  
How many then should cover that stand bare ?  
How many be commanded that command ?”

\* \* \* \* \*

By the manner in which Raymond returned, we conjectured, and not with-

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out cause, that he had somewhat to impart in which we were interested.

Nor were we deceived in our expectations.

Inviting Honorius, and me to follow him, he conducted us to the window of another apartment, through which, by the help of a candle that was burning near him, we perceived a man stretched carelessly upon a couch, and apparently buried in a profound sleep.

Raymond, pointing towards the place where he was lying, asked us, whether or not our memory furnished us with any recollection of him?

In spite of a visible and manifest alteration which he had undergone in his dress, we immediately knew him for the miserable cripple who had so earnestly supplicated our attention on the road between Hungerford and Newbury, and who, to recompense our humanity, had  
taken



THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 101

taken advantage of our absence to rob Honorius of his money.

And what of that? said Honorius.

His ingratitude be his punishment.

I would not hurt a hair of his head for all the fun encircles!

\* \* \* \* \*

Having dined, or rather supped (the lateness of the evening rendering it fully deserving of the latter distinction), Honorius proposed, that we should introduce ourselves into the apartment wherein we beheld the robber lying.

When he perceives our lenity towards him, said Honorius, conscious how little he merits it, he will insensibly be led to repent him of his ungrateful conduct.

At least the experiment is well worth trying.

\* \* \* \* \*

The noise occasioned by our entering, instantly gave the alarm to him who was the object of our visit.

Springing upon his feet, he turned fiercely round upon us, and eyeing us with a look at once partaking of the extremes of madness, malignancy, and desperate horror, he demanded to know our business.

Notwithstanding the ferocity discoverable in his countenance, it was, at the same time, so visibly blended with his fears, that we were in no wise apprehensive of the effect of his anger, however extravagant it appeared ; but, well knowing how powerfully Conscience would combat in our favour, we approached him with a coolness that at once manacled his rage, and gave us a superiority over him to be accounted  
for

for only by imputing it to an interference of that internal Monitor, who "makes cowards of us all."

Have you then forgot us? said Honorius, in answer to his enquiries. Is it possible that you can indeed have no recollection of those who have suffered by your ingratitude?

Ah then! replied the robber, I am betrayed! but—

Stop, Sir! said Honorius, interrupting him; keep your own secret; as yet it is safe; be satisfied that we seek not your hurt; and if, amidst the multitude of your mistakes, your bosom can know the blessings of peace, peace be with you!

Generous, generous man! said the robber. But it shall be my study to deserve this goodness: be assured it shall. You, Sir, continued he, turning towards Raymond, you shall be the

first to experience the truth and the sincerity of this determination.

You know Lord Saintly.

Yes! too well I know him, replied Raymond. Would to heaven I had remained ignorant even of his name! But proceed, what of Lord Saintly?

Do you not remember dining once with that nobleman at the Shakespeare Tavern?

At the Shakespeare! exclaimed Raymond, amazed, and gazing more intently than ever upon his enquirer: yes! I have but too much reason to remember a circumstance that brings with it so many disagreeable reflections, a circumstance which has been to me the foundation of a thousand disquietudes, and to which I owe all my unhappiness. If I am not mistaken, you too was present on that occasion.

I was indeed present: answered the other. And justly am I requited for  
being

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being instrumental in effecting the ruin of one whose virtues rendered him deserving of a very contrary fate. But it is not yet too late to remedy the evils which that day was productive of, nor shall any endeavour of mine be omitted to bring about so just and so meritorious a work.

I charge you then, said Raymond, if you would wish us to forget that you was any ways an accomplice in the injuries you affect to appear desirous of healing, to conceal nothing from us that may conduce to the purpose of clearing up certain mysterious points, which, in their present situation, are beyond our power to develope.

Know you any thing of a deed pretended to be executed at that time, by me, in favour of Lord Saintly?

That deed did I draw, replied the robber, and am myself a subscribing witness to it. But as the relation will most probably suffer by an abridgement,

F 5

I will

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I will endeavour, by a methodical arrangement, to present you faithfully with the particulars of the whole.

CHAP.



## C H A P. XI.

BROUGHT up by my parents to the profession of the law, as a practising attorney, and possessed of talents necessary to support that character in all its various and most extensive branches, I assiduously cultivated the esteem of my patrons and employers, by a blind and servile obedience to their commands, however extravagant or dishonourable, or however repugnant to the principles of common honesty.

As I found my own profits increase in proportion to the zeal I expressed for their interests, or the assistance I afforded them in the gratification of their pleasures and passions, it required no other motive to induce me to an exertion of my utmost vigilance in their service.

F 6      The

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The regard I constantly and invariably professed to their wills and desires, and the distinction I ever paid to their judgments, nay, even to their prejudices, naturally and necessarily operated in the manner I most wished. I was caressed, valued and esteemed : by my voice they were stimulated or restrained, by my advice they acted, and by my counsel they were directed.

Amongst others to whose interests I was particularly attached, was Lord Saintly.

His Lordship had upon divers occasions, found himself under the necessity of applying to me as a useful agent, from whose industry and abilities he looked for the accomplishment of those schemes, which, for the most part, originated in lust, covetousness, and cruelty.

Every assistance which the chicanery of the law or a perversion of justice could

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 109

could afford him, every illegal and oppressive measure which the fertile genius of a villanous invention could devise, and every diabolical art and mischievous effort which hypocrisy could contrive, or cunning could improve, were repeatedly, and, for the generality, successfully, practised for the furtherance of those pernicious and destructive pursuits, which were the grand and unalterable bias of his soul and of his inclination.

It will be unnecessary to add, that the encouragement he thus continued to receive, rather induced him to persevere than restrained him in the execution of those fatal and seductive enterprises; notwithstanding which, at the very instant that every divine and moral obligation was trampled under foot, he still possessed the art of imposing himself upon the world as a model of virtue, piety, and christian perfection; an imposition which was the better maintained  
by

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by a public prostitution of precepts, which, though continually in his mouth, his heart and his life were at perpetual variance with.

One day, having sent to me, desiring my attendance at his house, I immediately, as was usual with me, neglected every other kind of business to wait upon him, as I well knew my eagerness to serve him would not go unrewarded.

The instant he saw me, he introduced me into a private apartment; and, having secured the door, so that we were no ways apprehensive of being interrupted, he addressed me nearly in these words :

“ From the manner in which you have hitherto executed the trust I have occasionally been under the necessity of reposing in you, I have not the least doubt but you will deserve the confidence which I am once more inclined to place in you, by affording me your

### THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. III

counsel and assistance, in a matter which I am just going to communicate, and upon the accomplishment of which materially depends my future happiness.

“In this house, under this very roof, resides at present a lady, fair, young, and amiable, and, withal, romantically virtuous: her artless manners and generous sensibility have excited in me emotions, such as I find myself inadequate to the task of regulating. Unacquainted with the art of curbing my passions, or of foregoing enjoyments which human means present a probability of bringing within the compass of my reach, the extreme distance of the object only invites me the stronger to the pursuit, and every difficulty which presents itself to my view, only serves to increase my eagerness to surmount it.

“As she is continually attended by a fond husband, I have never had an opportunity of addressing her on this subject; but although my tongue has  
been

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been silent, my eyes have been eloquent. What hopes I may derive from her knowledge of my passion, I know not, nor indeed is it at present a matter worth my enquiry, since to reduce her to a compliance with my wishes is what induced me to send to you, a task in which, if I am not deceived, your talents will be to me of the utmost importance.

“ Her husband, as I before observed, possesses the tenderest and most violent affection for her. Of a turn perhaps the most constant and domestic of any man, he sees no charms, nor covets any enjoyments, but such as he finds in the possession of his Euphemia.

“ To injure him in her confidence, to root him from her affections, and to transform one by one his virtues and his many amiable qualities into vices and imperfections, would effectually accomplish and bring about the point which I have so much at heart, and  
thereby



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thereby remove every impediment which might otherwise arise in opposition to my desires.

“ The contiguity of their estate to mine, and which is both valuable and extensive, has often excited in me a wish to become the master of it; the perfecting of which wish seems to depend materially upon you, whose services on the occasion shall be rewarded in proportion to the zeal you may therein manifest; and should it be my fortune to succeed in both, both shall equally contribute to the advancement of your interest.

“ Wednesday next is advertised for a sale of pictures at Langford's. Thither is it my intention to invite him to accompany me. As he has no suspicion of my design, he will, I am assured, make no hesitation to comply with my request.

“ The sale being terminated, it is my further design to propose an adjournment

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ment to a tavern in the neighbourhood, where, I doubt not, with the assistance of wine, cards, and proper associates, to overthrow that boasted prudence which has hitherto regulated his conduct, and thereby render him an easy prey to successful artifice.

“ In the mean while, I would recommend it to you to prepare a deed of gift of all his estate (the particulars of which I here present you with) to me and to my heirs, the propriety of which measure will be apparent to you hereafter, as necessary to accelerate our other operations.

“ Heated with wine, and thrown off his guard, what will be more easy than to impose upon him a deed so drawn for an ordinary bond; and which, when once executed and properly witnessed, may defy the whole artillery of the law to set aside?

“ Let no time, therefore, be lost in making the necessary preparations for the  
pur-

purposes I have mentioned. To you I leave the task of providing those who may assist us therein, and whose services shall be amply rewarded by a liberal participation of the fruits which may arise from our united endeavours, and which, if properly directed, cannot fail of repaying us with a rich and plentiful harvest."

Having thus received my instructions, and after professing an implicit obedience to his lordship's commands, I took my leave, with an appointment to meet at the place of sale on the day before mentioned.

In the intermediate time, I, as directed, got ready an instrument comprised in as narrow a compass as possible, and which, though I could not then flatter myself with seeing executed with that ease as described by his lordship, I have since, upon a retrospective comparison of all its concurrent circumstances, wondered

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dered how I could once doubt of its success; every link of the whole chain being so contrived as to defy even the possibility of a miscarriage, which, the more I reflected on, the more thoroughly was I persuaded of the skill and address of the noble inventor.

Perhaps I may be discredited, should I declare that I felt certain compunctions of conscience on the occasion.

Yet so it was.

Familiarized as I was to scenes pregnant with destruction, I yet considered the present one, though only in embryo, with horror.

The description which Lord Saintly had given me of those who were to be the victims of our art, their amiable simplicity and unaffected modesty, caused me, for the first time, to curse myself for being the agent of his lordship's infernal machinations, which now appeared to me

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 117

me in colours infinitely more black and horrible than ever.

These conscientious scruples were, however, of no long continuance.

Prudence, in the shape of Interest, made her appearance, and represented to my imagination the probable advantages that might be gleaned by acquiescing in his lordship's determinations.

The picture she drew was too flattering to miss of its effect.

By attending to it, my doubts in a moment were silenced, and I earnestly set about preparing matters necessary to effectuate the work projected, in a manner that might impress my employer with the most favourable idea of my talents as well as of my obedience.

## CHAP.

## C H A P. XII.

EVERY thing being now prepared, the critical period of our hopes arrived, the actors properly instructed, and each disposed of in his respective place : pursuant to appointment we met, and were soon after joined by his lordship and his unsuspecting friend, the object of our present daring and important enterprize.

It will be unnecessary for me to recount minutely the various interesting particulars of the day. You have, doubtless, been already acquainted with them by the unhappy sufferer himself; the recapitulation will, therefore, be productive of little else than tediousness.

That part, however, which might have escaped your knowledge, I will relate, that you may thereby gain a clearer



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clearer and more satisfactory insight into the deep and refined subtilties which his lordship manifested on the occasion, and which even (perfectly as I thought myself acquainted with his abilities) greatly exceeded every thing I had before seen practised by him.

The wine having fully taken its effect, and cards having been successfully introduced, the consequence was natural. Intoxication and inexperience were but feeble adversaries to combat against the superior powers of cool address and professional knowledge. The triumph was certain: and, agreeable to the hopes and expectations we had before formed, we soon had the satisfaction of knowing that he, against whom our attempts were directed, stood indebted to us collectively in a sum almost incredible.

Lord Saintly having proposed, that separate bonds should be executed by him, to each, as a security for the payment

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ment of the monies lost, I was requested to prepare them.

This proposal of his lordship was considered by his unfortunate and much-injured friend, as an instance of his humanity and regard, but which ought, on the contrary, to have been imputed to low cunning and meditated artifice.

The circumstance of allowing a future day for the payment of debts, which in general are supposed to demand an immediate attention, carried with it such an appearance of honour and integrity, as with a heart, whose ideas of friendship bordered on enthusiasm, could not fail of its effects; whilst the real motive that actuated his lordship therein, remained a secret, impenetrable to the infatuated sufferer, whose misfortunes were of a kind calculated to draw commiseration even from the bosoms of those who contributed to his destruction.

But

But interest constantly checked the emotions which compassion excited, and rendered callous those hearts which otherwise felt for his situation.

The bonds being now fully and properly prepared, they were presented to the unfortunate looser for his perusal and approbation.

This was the critical season on which all his lordship's hopes depended. It was the moment that was to decide his expectations; he was sensible of it, and he was determined not to permit it to escape him.

Already had his unsuccessful friend signed two out of three of the instruments, and already was he preparing to bestow his signature on the third, when his lordship, with a presence of mind, which however its motive may induce us to condemn, we, at the same time, in justice to its ingenuity, cannot too greatly admire, applying the snuf-

fers to the candle totally extinguished it.

The momentary confusion this pre-meditated stroke was the instant occasion of, afforded him the opportunity he had so long and so impatiently sought for.

Nor was he so insensible to its value as to neglect it.

Secretly and surreptitiously conveying away the bond, which lay ready to be validated, he obtruded in its place the deed before particularized, and which, to our unspeakable pleasure and satisfaction, passed as genuine, nor created the least suspicion in the mind of him whose credulity was the best security for our own interest.

Our wish being now perfected, as far as related to the ground-work upon which the accomplishment of the remainder of our hopes depended, and each respective instrument being properly

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perly and legally witnessed and attested, for the present we separated.

The succeeding day, Lord Saintly sent for those who had extended to him their aid and assistance in the matter which was thus so favourably drawing towards a crisis, and for a trifling consideration in hand, prevailed upon them to deliver to him the bonds they held, in which mode of proceeding his Lordship had a double view; first, by gratifying them in some measure, to insure their services in future; and, secondly, by dispossessing them of those securities, to remove every probable impediment which fortune might otherwise raise as a bar to his own hopes hereafter.

His Lordship was excellently acquainted with the weaknesses and imperfections of human nature.

He well knew that honour and gratitude were not to be found in the

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catalogue of their virtues, and that consequently whilst he suffered them to have in their possession weapons so dangerous, it was in fact arming them against himself.

The only method therefore that occurred to his judgment, whereby permanently to secure his own peace and safety, and at the same time deprive them of every pretence whereby they might have an opportunity of discovering the natural and confirmed depravity of their wills and dispositions, was to buy them off, so that he might undisturbedly enjoy the fruits of the villainy he had so long been meditating, and which now rapidly approached towards a maturity that promised him the full and perfect consummation of all his wishes and desires.

Thus, perceiving that the rest were satisfied, I thought it but reasonable to demand the recompence which *my* services



vices entitled me to, agreeable to the previous stipulation entered into verbally between us.

But herein I met with a disappointment.

So far from paying that regard to his promise, which I expected, his Lordship prevaricated with me in a manner that easily gave me to understand what I had to trust to.

Upon my proceeding to expostulate with him, he threw off the mask entirely, and not only had the insolence and ingratitude to upbraid me for having assisted him in perfecting his schemes, but even threatened that if I did not instantly relinquish every kind of demand upon him, he would severely call me to account for some former transactions, the particulars of which he was sensible it was my desire might pass uninvestigated.

Enraged beyond description at this treatment, a rage which was considerably augmented by the reflection that I was unable, with safety to myself, to revenge it; I quitted his Lordship's presence in a state of mind little short of distraction.

I cursed myself for having been the dupe of artifices so gross and unpardonable: I execrated his Lordship as the author and perfecter of all evil, and I sat down ruminating over my disappointments with a mind furnished with every gloomy and horrid idea which blackest Hell could inspire.

Notwithstanding the mortification I hereby endured, I was not however entirely destitute.

The success that had heretofore crowned my endeavours, heightened by the generosity of my patrons, had enabled me to accumulate a considerable sum, which I had reserved as a provision

provision against future exigencies, and which I now hoped, with a sincerity unquestionable, might one day or other empower me to take the revenge which I so much coveted.

But here again I was deceived.

For a few nights afterwards, whilst every one of my domestics were deep buried in a profound sleep, and myself wrapt in a fancied security, and incapable of foreseeing or even of conjecturing the event that was to happen, an alarm of fire was given.

Roused by the violent outcry which on every side assailed me, I sprung hastily from the bed whereon I was lying, and with only time sufficient to permit me to escape the conflagration, which in a few minutes was become general, I with difficulty gained the street, though without being able to save one article of the many I just before accounted myself possessed of, or

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even so much cloaths as were absolutely necessary to preserve the appearance of decency.

Thus was I in a moment deprived of my all. Forsaken of fortune, forsaken of hope, and unblest with a single idea calculated to diminish the severity of what I endured; from the regions of ease, plunged headlong into the abyss of sorrow, and from affluence reduced to the lowest pitch of indigence and misery.

It was now I first experienced the insincerity of those whose friendship was fashioned only by the dictates of interest.

Those who had formerly caressed me as their better genius, as their bosom friend, and as their most faithful and esteemed counsellor; those who had entrusted me with their most weighty and important concerns, and who had committed to my care and management matters

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matters which essentially affected their hopes and happiness, now to a man forsook me.

Not one of them, but upon the reverse of fortune I had sustained, regarded me with the coolest indifference; no longer they appeared solicitous about my welfare; no longer pleasure sat smiling in their countenances at my approach, but, sullen and reserved, each turned from me as from the man he most wished to avoid, with every mark of disdain, and with every mark of contempt and abhorrence.

To add still further to my misfortunes, I had contracted several very considerable debts, which had already been litigated and contested as far as cunning or the chicanery of the law was of any avail, and for which I stood now in hourly dread of being taken in execution.

G 5

Thus

Thus circumstanced, how was I to act?

Surrounded with poverty, and destitute of friends, despair pointed me out the highway; a resource, which, however dangerous, assured me of one thing, either to retrieve my unhappy circumstances, or to put a speedy issue to an existence which was become almost insupportable.

I readily hearkened to the council she inspired; it was a council that too well suited with my own inclination, and which I was therefore determined to follow as the only step that was now left me whereby I might hope to avoid the horrors of famine; horrors which already began to threaten me, and which were such as human nature shrunk at.

Having provided myself with a brace of pistols, I accordingly bade adieu to the metropolis; and with a mind furnished



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nished with the blackest and most diabolical intentions, I declared war against all the world, every individual member of which I considered as my enemy, and as such was resolved to treat him.

With these hostile sentiments I have now rambled about the country several months, and whether it was owing to mere accident, or that I wanted the firmness and intrepidity necessary to support the character I assumed, I know not, but I was however far from meeting with that success on the road with which I had so fondly flattered my imagination. On the contrary it was not without infinite toil and hazard that I was able to procure a sufficiency to subsist upon, sometimes passing whole days together without partaking of a morsel, and not unfrequently subjected to the necessity of sleeping in the fields and highways.

G 6,

However,

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However, be my future fortune what it may, whether it be good or whether it be evil, I shall eternally keep in remembrance the lenity you have shewn me; a lenity which (conscious that I am undeserving of it) will the more strongly and permanently dwell upon my mind, as the most exalted proof of human excellence.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

DID you ever remark an eagle as borne upon the wing he journeyed through the vast region of the air, directing his eyes on all sides round in search of prey?

Anon he espies it, and with irresistible force darts upon the astonished victim, regardless of its cries, and whom he no sooner devours, than, as eagerly as before, he looks around him for a second.

Just such a creature is man, said Honorius.

Be the object of his rapacity ever so distant or ever so diminutive, be it ever so adorned with virtues or dignified with graces, he leaves no means unpracticed that afford him only a probability of effecting the destruction he  
is

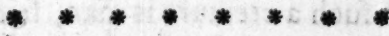
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is so desirous of producing. Age and sex he regards not, religion and honour lay him under no restraint, conscience is too feeble a tie to confine him, nor has he a principle or faculty but what contributes to the unworthy purposes of cruelty and oppression.

The more experience I gain of mankind, the more thoroughly am I taught to despise them.

Shall I never find occasion to correct the sentiments I have so long and so justly entertained of them?

Alas! I fear not.



It was now time to withdraw to bed. Honorius, as the reader may have already perceived, was exceedingly regular in all his actions.

Temperate at his meals, frugal in his pleasures, and a strict oeconomist of his

his time, he considered a violation of the laws of regularity as a crime unpardonable in any one, fools and madmen excepted.

He that commits an act of intemperance, said he, is guilty of a fault; but if that intemperance breaks into the hours appointed for rest, it is no longer a fault but an action highly criminal.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first thing that demanded our attention the succeeding morning was to enquire after Lord Saintly.

His Lordship had rested much better than we had been led to expect from the representations of the surgeon.

His spirits were greater and infinitely more alert than when we last saw him, and his wound was in so favourable a way that a very little time promised to produce a perfect cure.

These

These circumstances combining to render it safe for us to visit him, Honorius instantly sent for the robber (who was entirely ignorant of Lord Saintly's situation, or that he was in the same house) with a determination of enquiring how far his sincerity and gratitude might be relied upon.

He made no delay in attending upon us; but with the strongest and most visible marks of repentance and contrition imprinted upon his countenance, he submissively requested to know our pleasure.

There was something in his behaviour which in spite of suspicion compelled us to give him credit. The frankness with which he related the particulars of the manner by which Lord Saintly had procured the execution of the deed, a circumstance which had been to us a source of inexhaustible difficulty in endeavouring properly  
to



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to account for it, as well as his ingenuousness in acknowledging the share he himself had in that transaction, served not a little to erase the ill impression which our first acquaintance with him had made upon our minds, and even taught us to consider him as a penitent, restored to society and to a sense of his duty.

Eyeing him, nevertheless, with a fixed attention, such as evidently manifested the situation of his mind still labouring with doubt and perplexity, Honorius once more addressed himself to the robber.

And how, said he, may we best administer a cure for the evils of which we complain?

Is it your wish that it might prove effectual? said the robber.

Else to what purpose should we labour? replied Honorius.

It

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It is then my advice that you immediately institute a suit in equity.

Pshaw! said Honorius, and by that means subject ourselves to the manifold mortifications arising from the law's delay! the remedy is worse than the disease.

Yet, how may it be avoided? demanded the robber.

The determination of that abides with you, said Honorius. Will you go with us to Lord Saintly? will you there, in presence of his Lordship, openly and ingenuously, and uninfluenced by the meaner motives of passion and prejudice, make the same declaration as you have already favoured us with?

Try me, said the robber.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leaving the robber below, who was, as yet, unacquainted with his Lordship's

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ship's situation, we delayed no longer the visit we had before concluded on.

Accordingly Honorius and I, accompanied by Raymond and the peasant, entered the door of his apartment.

Drawing the curtains which inclosed him, we beheld him supported in his bed by the aid of pillows.

But, Heavens! how widely different did he appear from the picture drawn of him by Raymond.

His eyes had entirely lost that vivacity and that native brilliancy which was once their most distinguished ornament; no longer were they animated and enlivened by that flush of health and glow of transport, which, like the sun in its full perfection of glory, spread diversely their rays, illuminating the hearts of all upon whom they shone; but, untenanted by pleasure, they now exhibited only an air of gloomy discontent,

content, unfeemly to the wearer and painful to the beholder.

Forfaken by those genuine graces, which, in the eye of observation, had once given him a personal pre-eminence over his fellows, his cheeks now, impressed by a deadly paleness, bore rather the resemblance of mortality's period, than any relationship to life, or an acquaintance with youth. Sallow and sorrowful, their bloom had left them, their roses were vanished, and the whole system, the whole œconomy of health and beauty, discomposed, broken, and destroyed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thus, thought I, shall all human greatness perish and decay. Let the romantic fair one, proud of imaginary conquests, and exulting in the possession of youth and gaiety, in all the vanity

## THE MAN OF EXPERIENCE. 141

nity and wantonness of her heart reflect upon this scene; reflect, that although at present she may be surrounded with flatterers and idolists, though she be the soul of mirth and the spirit of society, yet the day *must* ere long arrive when the remembrance only of what she *was* shall remain, and when the cause of her exultation shall be as a dream vanished and forgot.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XIV.

TELL me, said Lord Saintly, the instant he perceived us, tell me is there in reserve mercy, sufficient mercy, for a wretch like me? or is there not rather

“ ——— some chosen curse,  
Some hidden thunder in the stores of Heaven,  
Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man  
Who owes his greatness to his neighbour's  
ruin?”

Alas! continued he, ye injured objects of my misguided ambition! what, what can *you* think of me? What idea can ye possibly entertain of your destroyer? O, horrid, horrid, most horrid! Do ye not turn with just abhorrence from me? Do ye not regard me as one whom Heaven has forsaken? as one, who lost in the labyrinths of vice, was  
too



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too delighted, too infatuated to look back? and as one whose every nerve has been repeatedly strained for your destruction?

Yes, yes, such are undoubtedly your sentiments respecting me; but be it so, I merit it all, merit whatever your keenest resentment may inflict upon me, nay infinitely more.

Delay not then to take the revenge your injuries so loudly demand. I am prepared to endure it all, to endure the full measure of your collected indignation, without a murmur and without reproach.

Ah! wherefore do ye hesitate? Have ye no regard for the cries of justice? Or are ye so familiarized to wretchedness as to have lost all sense of what ye once were? Be persuaded, let the instant memory of your misfortunes have some weight, and rouse ye to a resentment of your wrongs. Here!  
here!

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here! behold my bosom, strike! strike! strike! and let me no longer be cursed with the recollection of my cruelty and ingratitude.

We rather wished to be messengers of comfort to you, said Honorius, to calm the agonies which disturb your rest, and to speak the delightful lesson of peace to your afflicted soul.

What tongue is that which talks of comfort to me? said his Lordship. Comfort! I know her not, her dwelling is far off. Alas! alas! alas! What comfort, or what satisfaction may I partake of, possessed as I am by all the horrors of an inward hell? What peace, whose whole life has been one scene of variance with the God of peace? and whose mind is the mansion of distraction?

Turn where I will, reflection furnishes me with images calculated only to plunge me into madness. Lust, rapine,  
pine,

pine and violence the ministers of my vices, stand before me shaking their heads and upbraiding me for my misdoings; whilst ten thousand thousand fiends, all armed with brands of everlasting fire, torment me and drive me on to horror and despair.

But Heaven is merciful, said Honorius.

And therefore cannot be unjust, replied his Lordship. My crimes are great, infinitely so beyond imagination, or the hopes of pardon.

Yet is mercy still greater, rejoined Honorius.

Ah! do not flatter me! said Lord Saintly, I have outlived mercy, I have outlived hope. Welcome then, despair! Thou alone art suited to the monstrous nature of my iniquities, and thou alone shalt henceforward be my bitter portion.

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H

Will

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Will not repentance then avail, think you? said Honorius.

Ah! what repentance will be sufficient to expiate my numberless offences? replied his Lordship.

An ample atonement, a generous and liberal retribution, said Honorius. Send for those who have unhappily been sufferers by your avarice or ambition; restore to them what you have unjustly deprived them of; make an ingenuous acknowledgment of your transgressions, and leave the rest to Heaven.

Leave it to Heaven! exclaimed the wounded man, leave it to Heaven! Oh! that thought, that thought, my friend, like a fiery arrow, speeds towards my brain and hurries me to the gates of distraction! Will Heaven, think you, pardon my accumulated offences? What can I hope for from Heaven?

Heaven? what but wrath and everlasting punishment!

Yet, such atonement as I *can* make, (but, Oh! how inadequate to my crimes! how disproportionate to my transgressions!) such atonement *will* I make. Gracious God! what a task! how great! how vast! how infinite! how beyond comprehension infinite! Fancy grows giddy and reason staggers at the idea.

O say, continued his Lordship, addressing himself to Raymond and the peasant; O say, you who have so much cause to curse me; you, the unmerited victims of my insatiable cruelty, what atonement what retribution will be sufficient to cancel from your minds the memory of my unexampled wickedness? A simple restoration of all I have wantonly and unjustly deprived you of, would be productive of but little satisfaction to counterbalance the many domestic in-

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juries I have been the author of to you. For will this, alas! compensate for the painful days and restless nights you have necessarily and unavoidably endured on my account? Will it heal the wounds your peace has sustained thereby? Or will it miraculously bring back to you an amiable, an exemplary wife or daughter, once the chief ornament and support of your existence? No! no! such a thought were the unnatural upstart of folly and absurdity, and only serves the more forcibly to persuade and convince me, that I am damned equally beyond the reach and hopes of pardon!

Ah! say not so! replied Raymond. He whose infinite and divine wisdom penetrates into the secret thoughts of men, he who reads the heart, and from whom, as from an inexhaustible fount, all pardons and all mercies proceed, will still pardon and will still have mercy



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cy upon such of his creatures as turn to him in humbleness and in truth.

Heaven requires from none of us perfection. The frailty of our nature would render such an injunction incompatible with the unerring justice of the Deity. It would be taxing our duty too high. Then why despair of mercy? Of ME a pardon may easily be procured. Shall it then be said that the Almighty has less forbearance than a mortal? the assertion were blasphemy!

I see, said his Lordship, that you are determined to soothe me into hope; but I am so depressed, so disheartened by the consciousness of my demerits, that I dare not catch hold of the friendly aid you present me with, lest in the end it should elude my grasp and thereby only plunge me the deeper in destruction.

H 3

O,

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O, Raymond! dare I mention to you the name of your Euphemia? Dare I call to your memory that amiable injured woman; a woman, whose wonderful virtues rising to my imagination, compel me involuntarily to turn my eyes inwards upon myself, while every look damns me for a villain! Yes! I will at least do justice to her perfections. I will offer that tribute of acknowledgment to her merits which they so highly deserve. And I will, by an ingenuous confession of my errors, endeavour to make some amends for the corruptness of my actions, and the villainy of my intentions.

C H A P.

C H A P. XV.

SPRUNG from an ancient and noble family, a circumstance, which, in my present situation, whenever I reflect on, overwhelms me with shame and confusion; and which, by a mistaken partiality in my parents, has been to me the source of a thousand misfortunes, said Lord Saintly; I early in life began to manifest by my actions that nature had not formed me of a disposition proper to emulate the virtues of my progenitors, or to increase the catalogue of their well-earned honours.

These deficiencies nevertheless, however apparent they were, or however worthy of lamentation, as serving to convey a proof of my degeneracy, were fully and amply supplied by a liberal participation in that low cunning,

H 4

which

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which, calculated to favour the purposes of imposition and hypocrisy, is the most unquestionable evidence of a mind habituated to meanness, vice and infamy.

By the care with which I fostered those unworthy principles, and the encouragement they received, they soon began to take such deep and firm root in my heart, as flattered me, and not improbably, with the persuasion that I should be enabled to render them equally subservient to my profit and pleasure.

Nor was I entirely disappointed in this hope.

For from a long and extensive acquaintance with the world, aided by a nice and critical enquiry into the tempers and dispositions of my fellow creatures, I may venture to pronounce, that more owe their ruin to an obstinate

nate and vain opinion of their own wisdom (which absurdly leads them to judge of things by what they *seem*, rather than by what they really *are*) than to what is generally denominated imprudence and misconduct, joined by the whole collected train of intemperance and extravagance.

To describe the numberless impositions I practised, even in my early days, upon those who implicitly gave credit to the sanctity I usurped, would be an attempt equally vain and impracticable. They are so many, that tongue cannot utter them, nor can volumes comprise them.

Fraud and deceit, ripened by hypocrisy into the specious appearance of religion and piety, gave me advantages not easily to be believed. Fascinated and lulled into security, the credulous victims of my art voluntarily

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sacrificed their senses and their faculties to my pleasure, whilst every difficulty vanished at my approach, and became no longer the adversary of my designs.

Rejoicing and triumphing in their infatuation, I took care not to neglect so favourable an opportunity of benefiting by their easy faith, as well knowing, that occasion once past by is not to be recalled: And as these opportunities were frequent, I had in general sufficient employment for my talents, which led me by degrees to attempts of a higher nature, in which, from the experience I had already gained, I reaped the greatest advantages, and what appeared to me as the most solid of enjoyments.

My father (the only brother of the nobleman from whom I derived my title) whose partiality to me will with difficulty admit of excuse, and whose fondness may not improperly be termed



ed the effects of an extravagant and ill-timed dotage, beheld my failings in so favourable a point of light, as rather served to encourage than deter me from them, and to which behaviour of his, I, in a great measure, impute the whole chain of my subsequent errors and misconduct.

Had he, instead of seeking excuses for my actions, marked them with the odium they merited; had he bestowed upon them those public marks of scorn and disapprobation most worthy of them, I had perhaps been less guilty, less criminal. And if not a proselyte to conviction, I had most probably been so to SHAME.

By that father's death, which happened much too soon for my welfare, I was left entirely at liberty to pursue my own inclinations, which I was the better enabled to do, by being put into the immediate possession of a large and

valuable estate which by that event devolved to me, and which only served to increase the power I before enjoyed, of practising with more success those diabolical measures which were the darling objects of my soul and of my desire.

As my possessions principally lay in the country, the generality of my time was past there, seldom going to town, and when I did, making a very short stay, so that I might be said to be almost if not entirely rusticated.

Here it was, continued his Lordship, directing his discourse to the peasant; here it was I commenced an acquaintance with one, who in consideration of the many evils I have industriously and ungratefully been anxious to heap upon him, has every just reason to curse the recollection of that hour which bore witness to our first interview with bitter curses.

Instead

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Instead of that generous return, instead of that merited, that liberal recompence which his friendship and hospitality, no less than his other amiable qualities, entitled him to demand, how, how, did I reward him? By perfidy and ingratitude! by a base and unmanly attempt upon the honour of an unexceptionable daughter, by cruelty and injustice, by oppression and murder!

Ye angry ministers of an incensed deity! where, where are ye at this moment? Are your thunders no longer terrible to the ears of mortals, or are your lightnings abated of their force? Why are ye slow to execute the commands of vengeance, and wherefore delay ye to vindicate the cause of innocence? Is it that vice should prevail? that oppression should triumph? Then hath justice lost her seat in the  
mansion

mansion of Heaven! in the kingdom of the saints!

No sooner was I informed that Emily, at whose name, and in memory of whose wrongs, my soul even at this instant shakes with horror, no sooner had I learnt, that, worn out with misery, and wedded to calamity, she had bade adieu to this inhospitable world, than, too late to remedy the evils I had caused, I began to reflect upon her sufferings with some degree of remorse. This however was not sufficiently powerful to awaken me into a proper sense of my errors, the monstrous catalogue of which every day increased, and every day consequently saw me plunged deeper and deeper in folly and in sin.

It is true I sent her father a discharge to the action which had been the cause of the confinement he had so long and so patiently endured; I released him from horrors to which he was in a manner

manner familiarized, and I restored him once more to the enjoyments of life and of liberty. But alas! did this also restore to him his daughter, his Emily? Did it tend to heal the irrecoverable stab his everlasting peace had sustained? Or did it allay the ten thousand thousand pains and agonies which he necessarily endured in the recollection of his loss? Alas! alas! these thoughts then made no impression upon me. Engrossed by pursuits of a vain and sensual nature, I overlooked considerations so reasonable, and instead thereof, endeavoured all I could to suppress every reflection that conscience, all powerful conscience, excited in my mind in the calm still hour of sober meditation.

These hours were but few. Like the day of grace, their arrival was certain; and like that day too, to me, they passed without effecting their desired purpose.

Preyed

Preyed on by poverty and overwhelmed with shame and reproach, unmoved I heard, that he, whose daughter I had inhumanly murdered, was reduced to wander friendless and unpitied about the street, without a morsel of bread to sustain life, and without a bed whereon to repose his weary limbs; without spirits to support him, and without rayment to shield him from the inclemency of the weather!

In this situation, a situation that loudly demanded the fullest and most effectual aids of compassion, what succour, what assistance did I afford him? Did I point him out a comfortable asylum in which he might spend the remainder of his days unmolested by those troubles and those distractions which had so long surrounded him? Did I invite him to my table, or did I resign to him my bed? Did I pour the balm of ease into the wounds I had  
myself



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myself implanted in his bosom? And did I administer to him those wholesome delights which might teach him no longer to remember the many wrongs I had industriously heaped upon him?

No! no! I did none of these! but, like a villain, a base unthinking villain, I permitted him patiently to endure the miseries that assailed him. I wantonly left him to perish, and I inhumanly shut my door against him; for which, as assuredly, shall the golden door of everlasting life be one day shut against me and my posterity!

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVI.

THE opportunities which I enjoyed of gratifying my passions were in no wise diminished by an event that happened somewhat about this time, namely, the sudden and unexpected death of my uncle.

As he had no child, his title, together with his estate, which was large, descended to me.

Here then behold me advanced to the peerage, encircled with honours, my possessions enlarged, my connections flattering, and my prospects unbounded.

Thus circumstanced, what had I to hope for, or to desire? I needed only to speak, and every pleasure awaited my acceptance; I had but to command, and instant obedience followed.

Could

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Could I have contented myself with this assurance, or could I have been satisfied with those moderate enjoyments which my rank and fortune equally brought within my reach, it had been well for me. But that restless ambition which never ceased to actuate me, together with those grosser desires to which I was a blind, a willing captive, still created in my mind passions that continually hurried me beyond the bounds of reason, and led me into errors beyond the reach of repentance.

A considerable part of the family estate being situated in Northamptonshire, I removed there; and as it had been the general residence of my deceased uncle, I, in imitation of him (finding the neighbourhood to be unexceptionably agreeable) formed a resolution of making it my common abode; and for which end I gave proper

per orders for repairing the mansion-house, which was much decayed, and which required some very considerable alterations to reduce it to the standard of modern taste.

During the prosecution of this work, it was my lot to form an acquaintance with Raymond.

He had lately married the daughter of Sir William Trusty, a gentleman I had long known, and whose virtues, had it been my care to emulate, I had thereby avoided the unspeakable, the aggravated horrors which at present torment me.

Notwithstanding my intimacy with Sir William, it had never been my fortune to behold his daughter; happy indeed were it, had I still remained ignorant of her, and that I had to this moment been a stranger to those perfections which have been to her the  
source

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source of all her misfortunes. But Heaven ordered otherwise.

Raymond, whose simplicity was unaffected, and whose own sincerity taught him not to distrust that of others; deceived by that outward sanctity which perpetually graced my behaviour, courted my acquaintance as an acquisition invaluable.

I was not backward in cultivating his good opinion, as knowing that it might conduce ultimately to my own interest, a point which I had invariably in view, and which was the stimulus that excited me in all my undertakings.

Readily yielding to a friendly invitation he gave me one evening of supping with him, I attended him home, where, for the first time, my senses were dazzled and confused by the incomparable charms of the divine Euphemia, whose beauty

“ — hung

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“ — hung upon the cheek of night,  
Like a rich jewel in an Æthiop's ear.”

She received me with that natural, that unaffected ease and politeness which ever distinguish those whom nature has dealt liberally to, and whom education has refined.

Unlike the generality of her sex, who, by a vain attention to trifles, neglect the cultivation of the superior graces of the mind, every word she uttered was marked with propriety, and every sentence that flowed from her enchanting tongue bore the sterling stamp of taste, and judgment exquisite.

Let me be pardoned expressions so warm and animated. I have now no desire to indulge, but the desire of truth; no wish to seek the gratification of, but that of doing justice to her virtues and her perfections.

Intoxicated



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Intoxicated with the luxurious banquet on which my eyes had so long and so delightfully feasted, I insensibly forgot the hour. In vain the clock reminded me that it was time to depart. In vain the repeated yawns of my kind my hospitable entertainers, gave me to understand that I was trespassing upon their patience; I was both deaf and blind to their remonstrances; I disregarded their hints, and I continued my visit much beyond the time that politeness could justify.

But now,

“Night’s candles were burnt out, and jocund day  
Stood tip-toe on the misty mountain tops.”

I could delay taking my leave no longer.

The instant I got home, I threw myself upon my bed, where I lay ruminating upon the charming Euphemia, as upon an inhabitant of the celestial regions.

regions. I could not be persuaded to consider her as a mere mortal. That idea bore so little relationship to the nature of her excellencies, that it were impiety to encourage it.

I was however determined to try how far her faith and her constancy would remain unshaken, amidst the temptations and allurements of the fashionable world; and whether a participation in these pomps and pleasures, which are the perquisites of rank and fortune, aided by time and opportunity, might not make some impression upon her inexperienced heart, and thereby efface the force and memory of that troth she had pledged to Raymond.

Thus, like the Devil plotting the shame and the distruction of our first grand parents, did I, envying the happiness I was not myself calculated to enjoy, vainly attempt to corrupt that fidelity, and to undermine those virtues  
which

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which raised the possessor to heights insuperable; an attempt which was however as far beyond my art to effect, as it was repugnant to my nature and inclination to forego.

From this time forward my visits were frequent and regular. The nearness of our situation to each other was the means of speedily improving our acquaintance so much, as to render our habitations as one. One house and one home served us, and even the inferior branches of our respective families were quickly incorporated under one head.

The repeated opportunities I hereby enjoyed of seeing and conversing with Euphemia, instead of diminishing the desires that consumed me, rather contributed to augment them; instead of reducing them within the bounds of reason, gave them additional force. Notwithstanding which, I still continued (though not without difficulty)

by the aid of dissimulation, to deport myself in a manner that avoided giving offence; a precaution that I the rather used from the consideration that matters were not yet arrived to that degree of maturity necessary to insure me the success I wished for.

From the observation I had from time to time made of the temper and disposition of Euphemia, I began to form a conclusion that it would be in vain for me to expect a favourable issue to my hopes, unless I could contrive to alienate her affections from her husband.

This was a task that required the utmost delicacy in the execution.

To erase effectually from her mind the first and earliest impression that love had made, demanded an equal share of conduct and perseverance; conduct to manage it, and perseverance to support it.

It

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It was not sufficient that she was made acquainted with the knowledge of my passion; it was likewise necessary that he, who at present was the sole and absolute monarch of her heart, should be deprived of his envied sovereignty; that his character should be blackened by aspersions most foul and unjust, that his fidelity to her should be disputed, his prudence and œconomy called in question, and his every virtue transformed into vice and imperfection.

As the country did not so well favour those designs, it was not without a singular degree of satisfaction that I heard Euphemia one day express a desire of visiting the metropolis.

This was a circumstance I much wished for; and I therefore neglected no opportunity that offered to encourage her in it.

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It requires but little art to persuade people to do that which their inclination prompts them to.

Accordingly, without much solicitation on my side, in a few hours from the time of her communicating her desire, I had the happiness of perceiving the necessary preparations making for our intended excursion.

CHAP.



## C H A P. XVII.

WE were now arrived at London.

No sooner were we relieved from the trifling fatigue which our journey, though delightful, unavoidably occasioned, than, with an assiduity almost unequalled, I unweariedly exerted my every endeavour for the purpose of selecting a variety of amusements, whereby I might, with the greater ease, wean the mind of Euphemia from the memory of her husband.

The attempt however was vain.

For although, with the utmost readiness, she mixed in the pleasures that were prepared for her, I still had the mortification to find that her affections, like a rock, were fixed and immovable; never once wandering from him who alone was worthy of them.

It would be unnecessary for me to relate any further attempts upon her, previous to that most diabolical one, which but too well succeeded in the purpose for which it was designed, namely, the destruction of Raymond; whose memory will no doubt furnish him but too sensibly on the occasion with ideas he might wish suppressed.

Several hours had elapsed from the time he had left us at the tavern before I could prevail upon myself to follow him. An inward consciousness of my guilt totally unnerved me. I had no power to move. But, insensibly permitting the instruments of my villany to depart, I alone remained behind to meditate upon an action which, now accomplished, was far from affording me that satisfaction which I expected from it.

The following day I learned that Raymond was ill.

This

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This was an information that in no wise displeased me, more especially as I flattered myself with the hopes of deducing therefrom an opportunity favourable to my wishes.

Accordingly, with a well affected sorrow, I approached the beauteous mourner; and, whilst I seemed to sympathize and share with her in the misfortune that oppressed her, I insiduously gave her to understand that her husband little merited the precious tears that so copiously streamed from her eyes; but was rather deserving of her everlasting hate, in that he had been industrious to entail shame, want, and beggary upon her and her posterity.

I then related to her the whole adventure of the preceding evening, in the course of which I magnified her husband's folly, imprudence, and intemperance with all the art I was ca-

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pable of. I explained to her his culpability in blindly rushing from error to error. I declared to her, that I in vain had repeatedly warned him to desist from what must inevitably terminate in his own destruction. And, continuing the falsehoods to their final period, I imputed his misconduct to wilful obstinacy and confirmed depravity.

Euphemia, no sooner had she heard the full sum of her misfortunes than,

“Speechless she stood and pale —

— while horror chill

Ran through her veins, and all her joints relax’d.”

Fixed to the earth with wonder and astonishment, I beheld her incapable of sense or motion; I beheld her petrified with pain, and surrounded with sorrows, and I inhumanly rejoiced therein, as it plainly demonstrated that  
my

my words had made upon her the desired impression.

Resigning her therefore, cruelly resigning her to the torture and agony arising from reflection, I permitted three whole days to elapse before I again ventured to address myself to her.

I knew that her delicacy would easily take the alarm. I was convinced that I had infinitely more to hope for from gentleness, than from any exertion of violence. And I was not without some secret expectation of benefiting by her resentment of the injuries she was made a sharer in, and which I had so industriously conveyed to her knowledge, aggravated beyond measure by the aid of falshood and uncharitable malice.

As opportunity favoured my designs, I now once more accosted her. I represented to her the ill consequences that might result from her attendance

upon a sick and feverish husband; a husband that, by his misconduct and imprudence, had richly forfeited every title, every pretension to her love and to her tenderness. I insinuated to her that she must no longer look for those pleasures, and those congenial raptures she was wont to partake of, but that henceforward bitterness and upbraidings would be her portion, bitterness unmixed with sweets, and upbraidings that admitted not of abatement.

“Yes! but I have still left a friend, my Lord,” said she. “You know my aunt, you know Lady Frampton; she is at present in the country; to her will I fly; in her friendship will I place my hope, nor have I a doubt of meeting with a reception from her such as may teach me to forget the horrors of the picture your Lordship has set before me.”

I was



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I was unprepared for this reply. It came quite unexpectedly. And yet, upon a second thought, I saw reason to approve of it, as it was apparently calculated to forward and mature the design I had so long formed against her.

Leaving no means unpractised that might operate to the encouragement of the resolution she had made, I never quitted her until I had so far strengthened her in that determination, as to have gained her consent to accompany her to Lady Frampton, with whom, for reasons that require no explanation, I pretended a great and particular intimacy.

I was no sooner favoured with this permission, than I gave the necessary orders for getting ready the carriage; thinking it not altogether safe should I delay a single moment the execution of so important a work, or even should

I allow her time for reflection, as one thought might totally disconcert the whole of what I had with such eagerness been planning, and thereby reduce me to the necessity of beginning my operations over again.

Instead of Lady Frampton's, in Rutlandshire, a few hours conveyed us into Northamptonshire, which, being situated in the same direction, gave Euphemia no suspicion of my intention; but confiding in that honour which I never yet possessed, she resigned herself to my care, nothing doubting but that I was actuated in what I was doing solely by a regard for her peace, her safety, and her happiness; a motive as opposite, and a consideration as foreign, to that which really impelled me, as Heaven to Earth.

The instant we alighted at the door, she began however to correct the mistaken opinion she had all along before conceived

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conceived of the purity of my principles.

“How is this, my Lord!” said she, with visible signs of amazement depicted in her countenance, “how is this? Is this the boasted friendship you professed for me? can it induce your Lordship to nothing else than to betray! Ah! now I begin too late to perceive that I was wrong in giving credit to those professions!”

It was now no time to answer her, so gently forcing her to follow me, I conducted her into the parlour; which we had no sooner entered, than I attempted to apologize for what I had done, still insisting, notwithstanding appearances argued to the contrary, that I was moved thereto by no other consideration than the regard I then did, and ever should, retain for her peace and everlasting welfare.

Regarding

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Regarding me with a look beyond expression mortifying, and in a tone of absolute authority, she commanded me instantly to set her at liberty; threatening, in case of a refusal, by some violent act of desperation, to put an end at once to her own life and my hopes.

I now, and as occasion served, changed the form of my proceedings. I sighed, I wept, I implored, and I protested to her that I had long and sincerely loved her, loved her to a degree of distraction. I set before her my rank and fortune, and all the privileges thereto annexed; opposed against which, I represented to her, her husband's failings, and the too probable consequences of his misconduct, *contempt and poverty*. I shewed her the bonds, which I had, for a trifling consideration, procured from their respective holders. And, finally,  
I gave

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I gave her a sight of the deed, by virtue of which I myself claimed the sole and entire residue of his property, both real and personal.

All this however, instead of having the effect I wished for, served only to increase her resentment.

For rushing at once desperately from me, and without deigning a syllable by way of reply, she quitted me, unable to detain her; and making the utmost expedition, before I had time to form even the most imperfect resolution by which to act, she had so well succeeded in her attempt, as to render every kind of pursuit vain and totally unprofitable.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVIII.

FROM that hour to this, continued Lord Saintly, have I never seen her. Steeped as I was in dishonour, I dared not again present myself before her; nor dared I resume a pursuit that had been so unfavourable to me in the first instance.

Terrified and tormented beyond description with the consciousness of my own unpardonable villany, I sequestered myself from the world. I ordered myself to be denied to every one, nor was it till after the visit Raymond made me that I could prevail with myself once more to mix with mankind; and even then, I conceited that all eyes were directed towards me, and that, like CAIN, I bore the mark of my wickedness



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wickedness, engraved in immortal characters, upon my forehead.

Ah! why could I not repent? Why was I doomed still to increase the roll of my misdoings? Surely some demon preceded at my birth, and sealed me, ere yet I had escaped my mother's womb, for ruin and endless misery!

No sooner was I recovered of the wound which Raymond, the injured Raymond, had deservedly given me, than I relapsed once more into my former errors.

The sudden and accidental view of a beautiful face, in a moment rekindled my desires with a violence that demanded no inconsiderable degree of resolution properly to quell and stifle them.

Passing one evening down into Wiltshire, near the borders of which I have a considerable estate, and upon which I occasionally resided, I was struck  
with

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with the appearance of a young girl, whose florid countenance and sparkling vivacity irresistibly increased in me a desire of being further acquainted with her.

As I was on horseback I instantly dismounted, for the purpose of entering with the greater ease into conversation with her.

I found her to be sprightly and agreeable, and withal artless and unaffected. Her features, which were regular and beautiful, comprehended in them a mixture of sweetness and modesty which it was impossible too much to admire; and which, by a strange kind of magic, could not fail to operate upon every heart that was not entirely insensible to the impressions of love and beauty.

To describe minutely her every perfection would be idly wasting that time which may be much better and more profitably

profitably bestowed. Suffice it therefore to say, that in respect to her personal charms, she yielded in no one instance to Euphemia.

She informed me that her father was a gentleman of some small property in the neighbourhood, and that she, who was his only child, was then returning from a visit she had been making at a village somewhat distant.

“It is necessary that I make what haste I can home, said she, as my father will doubtless be uneasy should I exceed the time allotted me.”

The native innocence and unaffected simplicity so apparent in her expressions, instead of gaining from me the applause and the protection they merited, served only to provoke my eagerness for their destruction. I beheld her beauty and, like a villain, I was resolved to attempt the possession of it.

Contenting

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Contenting myself however for the present with procuring a direction to her father, I bade her adieu; determining to devote the earliest opportunity to the purpose of visiting her, nothing doubting but my rank would be the means of procuring me an admission equal to my wishes.

The next day, having first provided myself with a lodging every way convenient for my design, I set out for the place of her abode.

The distance was very inconsiderable.

Having sent in my name, by a servant who attended me, I was immediately requested by the old gentleman, who himself hastened to meet me, to enter and repose myself.

He had been, as I afterwards learned, many years an officer in his majesty's service; but having still had the mortification to find fortune preferred  
to

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to merit, and perceiving no probability of rising in the army, disgusted with his situation, he had collected together the poor remains of his miserable fortunes, and, having disposed of his commission, he retired here into the country, not so much through a love of retirement, as to avoid the disgrace of seeing boys clambering up the ladder of preferment over the hoary heads of their masters.

In respect to his person, it was tall and well-proportioned. An air of martial severity, which he wore in his countenance, gave a dignity to his features, that, infusing itself into his actions, at once created awe and respect; nor did a scar that appeared in his forehead, honourably purchased in the defence of his country, any ways tend to diminish the manliness of his visage.

I informed him that having, by the advice of my physicians, taken up my residence

residence in the neighbourhood, it was my desire to cultivate his friendship and acquaintance, being excited thereto by the report of his virtues.

The old gentleman, without expressing the least doubt of my sincerity, afforded me a frank and a cordial reception; giving me at the same time politely to understand, that he was not insensible of the honour conferred upon him. "For in truth, my Lord, said he, it is so exceedingly difficult to meet with a rational creature in this part of the kingdom, that I am doubly bound to thank your Lordship for this very extraordinary condescension."

Not having, during a full hour, been able to perceive any signs of his lovely daughter, I artfully enquired of him if he had no children to amuse him in his retirement.

"One only," replied he, "a homely, but a good girl. If you please,  
my



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my Lord, we will send for her. She has, I imagine, heard of your Lordship's visit, and on that account absents herself."

I eagerly pressed him to exert his authority so far, as my errand had been incomplete had I departed without seeing her.

In a few minutes she entered, more beautiful than ever.

She immediately recollected me, and, with a blush that added ten-fold crimson to her cheek, approached to receive my salutation, labouring at the same time under so visible and amiable a confusion, as it was impossible to contemplate without an equal degree of pain and pleasure.

I soon after took my leave.

From this time I was frequent in my attendance; and as my visits were generally accompanied by some trifling present, I never failed of making myself

self agreeable. The father respected me as a friend; and the daughter, as an honourable acquaintance.

Our intimacy increasing, I was not long without an opportunity of declaring the situation of my heart, to her who was the object of my passion.

"What is it you intend, my Lord?" said she.

"Nothing, be assured, replied I, but what is compatible with the strictest and most inviolable honour."

"I then refer your Lordship to my father, rejoined she, for who so proper to consult with on so important an affair as he to whom I owe my being?"

I was prepared for this stroke; I expected it. Seizing therefore the occasion to thank her for a compliance so flattering, I promised her without delay to address myself on that subject to her father, whose consent I made not the least

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least doubt of obtaining, as it was an honour he could not be insensible of.

That same evening I addressed myself to the old gentleman and having related to him what had passed, I solicited his interest with Julia, protesting that my happiness solely and ultimately depended upon the answer I might receive.

I did not deceive myself in supposing that his acquiescence would readily be procured ; for I had no sooner asked his consent than I obtained it, and in consequence thereof the wedding cloaths were bespoke, the necessary preparations made, and even the day appointed for the consummation of our nuptials.

## C H A P. XIX.

THAT day however never arrived.

For on the preceding evening, in the absence of her unsuspecting father, who was gone to the adjacent town to provide some trifling necessaries against the next morning, I, like a villain, a treacherous smiling villain, approached the lovely maid in the loose unguarded moment of involuntary softness, and, basely imposing upon her too easy faith and confidence, by those warm, those unmeaning professions of love, which are calculated only to gratify the selfish designs of the unprincipled and illiberal, sullied at once her innocence and virgin purity, and left her robbed, stained and polluted, to mourn the everlasting and irreparable loss of that  
jewel

jewel which neither time nor repentance can ever restore.

No sooner had I accomplished this poor, this unmanly action, than, in order to render the full measure of my villany compleat, I cruelly left her a prey to that remorse which is the inevitable consequence of imprudences so gross, and immediately set out for my seat in Northamptonshire, from whence I had been absent several months.

From that time I heard no further of Julia or her father, until about three days ago, when, by the post, I received a letter conceived in the following terms :

“ My Lord,

“ When you behold this epistle,  
 “ when you contemplate thereto the  
 “ signature of one, who has so little  
 “ reason to think favourably of your  
 “ Lordship, you will probably expect

K 2

“ to

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“ to meet only with reproaches and  
 “ upbraidings, the feeble and final re-  
 “ source of a forsaken and despised wo-  
 “ man. But, alas! my Lord, where-  
 “ fore should I reproach, wherefore  
 “ should I upbraid you? It is I alone  
 “ that am deserving of upbraidings;  
 “ I, whose too fond and easy nature  
 “ exposed me to artifices and tempta-  
 “ tions, such as I ought to have been  
 “ guarded against; and whose credu-  
 “ lity led me into errors which I ought  
 “ to have avoided.

“ But why, my Lord, abandon,  
 “ why forsake me? Coolly and indif-  
 “ ferently to leave me the very hour,  
 “ nay, the very moment in which I  
 “ most needed your presence, argues  
 “ a degree of inhumanity which I  
 “ thought your Lordship incapable of.

“ O, my Lord! my Lord! add not  
 “ cruelty to injustice! Let the remem-  
 “ brance of your unfortunate Julia  
 “ still



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“ still have some weight with you.  
“ Let me not for ever remain the  
“ wretched and despised creature that  
“ I now am; nor let me longer be-  
“ lieve that your Lordship can inhu-  
“ manly take pleasure in the aug-  
“ mentation of my sufferings.

“ My father is at present gone up-  
“ on a visit to town which will una-  
“ voidably detain him several weeks.  
“ Could I flatter myself, in the inter-  
“ mediate time, with once more seeing  
“ your Lordship, though but for an  
“ hour, though but for a minute, lit-  
“ tle as I have now left to bestow, the  
“ idea would afford me unspeakable  
“ transport.

“ I then adjure your Lordship, by  
“ the recollection of our former loves,  
“ by the memory of my present wrongs,  
“ by the most favourite wish of your  
“ heart, and by your hopes of peace  
“ and happiness here and hereafter,

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“ that, immediately upon the receipt  
“ of this, you fly to me, and there-  
“ by restore pleasure to the soul of one  
“ who, in every change and situation  
“ of life, is constantly and invariably  
“ (though unfortunately) yours,

“ JULIA.”

Upon the receipt of this unexpected epistle all my former desires instantly returned, and with more violence than ever. I felt the full force and whirlwind of passion rising in my soul, by degrees almost imperceptible. And, for the first time, I experienced some remorse for the injuries I had done her, which determined me, without delay, to pay her the visit she so urgently requested.

Accordingly yesterday, about noon, after a tedious journey, and without any attendants with me, I reached the place of her residence.

Without

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Without allowing myself time for refreshment, I immediately repaired to the scene of our late amour, nothing doubting but that I should find circumstances to correspond with the letter I had received.

But how was I disappointed!

Being shewn into an apartment, and after waiting impatiently some minutes in expectation of her coming, instead of the fair, the blooming Julia, in the full pride and ripeness of her charms, behold, my eyes were blasted with the appearance of her father, armed, and fiercely burning with resentment and vindictive passion!

“Yes, my Lord,” said he, the moment he entered, and perceiving the astonishment that so evidently abounded in my countenance. “Yes, my Lord, the date of your triumph is now expired. It is now my turn to triumph. Vengeance requires, ven-

geance demands it. And be assured, my Lord, she shall not be disappointed of her victim.

“By my direction, and by my command, did Julia pen the letter your Lordship received. Accuse me not of artifice, accuse me not of dissimulation; for if I have any knowledge therein, to you, my Lord, am I indebted for it. At present I have reason to thank you for making me acquainted with those arts, nor will I fail of profiting by the lessons which you yourself have taught me.

“Here, my Lord, is a pair of pistols. Take which of them your Lordship chooses. Dishonourable as has been your conduct respecting me, you shall nevertheless find mine to be formed upon principles of the strictest and most inviolable honour.

“It is a *father*, my Lord, that now addresses himself to you; a father whose

whose eyes you have taught to weep tears of blood; eyes which till lately were unacquainted with sorrow, and which looked at misfortune with contempt and honest indifference.

“I would have spared your Lordship the fatigue of this journey, I would have followed you into Northamptonshire, and I would *there* have sought the satisfaction that I now demand of your Lordship, but then had my revenge been incomplete; then, had I lacked the peculiar means necessary for the re-establishment of my repose.

“No, my Lord, my peace demands that the very place which had been witness to my dishonour, should also be the scene of my purgation; that the spot, which as yet is fresh with the sacrifice of a daughter's fame, should also be the theatre whereon to commemorate a father's vengeance. Prepare yourself therefore, to meet that

vengeance. You are now deprived of every subterfuge, every evasion, nor will your Lordship be any ways benefited by sheltering yourself beneath them."

He ceased, and before I had time to free myself from the embarrassment and surprize which his presence had been productive of to me, he once more, in a tone of authority, and with a look so fraught with severity and resolution as terrified me, ordered me to take my choice of the weapons he had before presented me with.

I was so much disheartened and so totally unnerved with astonishment, and with the expressions he had uttered, that I was incapable of returning him any answer, or even of attempting to form an excuse necessary to avert his indignation; but passively submitting to his commands, I involuntarily took the pistol he offered me,



me, and immediately prepared to defend myself.

Terrified beyond imagination by my guilt, my ball flew widely from its mark; his, on the contrary, obliquely entering my breast, narrowly escaped my vitals.

His injured honour having now received the satisfaction it required, my somewhat pacified antagonist conducted me to the door, and, having strictly charged me never more to approach it, he directed me over the thicker, the nearest road to Maidenhead, as the most probable place to procure the assistance I needed.

It was not without the greatest difficulty that I contrived to walk the little way I did. My spirits and strength however being soon exhausted, by reason of the great quantity of blood I had lost, I laid myself down near the road side in hopes of exciting

the compassion of some friendly traveller, by means of whose charity I might reach the place to which I was directed.

It was not long before you found me.

Providence no doubt, to bring me to a proper sense of my wickedness, appointed that I should owe the greatest of all obligations to those whom I had most materially injured.

And, O! that I was able sufficiently to atone for these injuries, that I was capable of expressing my just abhorrence of them, or to convey to you a competent idea of the pain and anguish I endure in the recollection of them.

But it will not be.

Imagination only here can supply the place of expression. Words are inadequate to the task!

C H A P. XX:

WELL, thank my stars! we live in an age that approaches so hastily and so successfully towards the full meridian of folly and absurdity, that it is much to be feared we shall leave nothing in either for posterity to refine upon.

Warmed into the resentment of an injury, no matter whether real or imaginary, for pride makes no distinction; a man, to keep in countenance the fashionable prejudices of the world, must put himself upon a level with the villain that has wronged him, and thereby give him at least an equal chance of increasing his villany by the addition of a murder. Else, can he possibly have no satisfaction. Such is  
the

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the established maxim of modern honour!

Should a mean, an unworthy scoundrel, in open and manifest abuse of the unmerited confidence reposed in him, in the rank hour of inordinate lust attempt the seduction of my wife, or trample wantonly upon the unsullied reputation of my only child. Should he ungratefully, in return for the many obligations I have been anxious to confer upon him, industriously take pains to blast my credit and to defame my character. What remedy, what redress have I? That only which may be gained by the point of a sword!

Nay, to such a head is this popular phrenzy arrived, that it is almost impossible to regulate or decide any dispute, however trifling, without the fashionable method of arguing it by a duel.

Reason

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Reason, which our plain and unpolished forefathers thought so much of, is now laid aside, as a faculty too vulgar and too common to find encouragement with any above the rank of a trader.

Should a difference arise upon any point, either political or commercial, historical or metaphysical, whether practical or merely speculative, the best and most infallible criterion whereby to determine its merit is a duel.

No subject so abstruse, no business so complex, but this unanswerable method of argument will at once effectually decide. Expedition gives it wings and every difficulty vanishes before it.

So that, what with whoring, drinking, gaming and duelling, together with all the long *et cetera* of fashionable intemperance, a man of fortune stands but a very indifferent chance of living to the age of thirty.

Such

Such are the refinements of the times!

\* \* \* \* \*

The ample and ingenuous confession which Lord Saintly had favoured us with contributed not a little to our satisfaction.

Both Raymond and the peasant freely joined in expressing their forgiveness of the injuries they had received.

His Lordship had promised them every restitution in his power to make, and, according to the present complexion of affairs, they had no reason to doubt of his sincerity.

Honorius thinking there could not well be a more favourable opportunity, asked permission to introduce an old acquaintance.

Upon his Lordship's acquiescence, Honorius quitted us, but almost as instantly



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stantly returned, bringing with him the unfortunate attorney, who, by his countenance, evidenced the most sincere signs of remorse for what he had done.

The moment his eyes met those of Lord Saintly he stood as without sense or motion. Surprise riveted him to the boards and entirely deprived him of the power of articulation.

Ah! said Lord Saintly, am I ever to be thus cursed with some fresh proof of my wickedness! am I to experience no end to my crimes! and is every hour to add to the burden of my ingratitude!

Behold me now at your devotion, continued he, addressing himself to the attorney. Dispose of me as you think proper, for as yet you know not one quarter of my guilt. What will you say when I confess to you that it was by my direction your house was set on fire;

fire; that the whole of that circumstance was of my planning; and that I exulted, barbarously exulted, in the hope I enjoyed of burying you in its ruins?

Ah, my Lord! my Lord! replied the attorney, we are equally guilty. Let us not upbraid each other with our vices. Rather let us assist each other to conquer them. I, alas! richly deserve every evil I have endured; and if it was the sovereign will of the Almighty that you should be the instrument to punish my misdoings, ought I to blame you? Be it ours, my Lord, to seek for repentance. In her we shall doubtless find that peace and that happiness we have so long been strangers to; and in her we may depend upon meeting with that comfort which will teach us to forget the sorrows arising from the remembrance of our former errors.

We

\* \* \* \* \*

We were interrupted from the further continuance of our visit, by the entrance of the surgeon.

Having received information of the length of time which his Lordship had conversed with us, he charged us instantly to leave him, as by too much talking he was in danger of bringing on a fever, in which case all his skill might be extended to no purpose.

We needed not to be admonished twice hereon, as we were much more interested in his recovery than the surgeon imagined.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now, if we could but be certain of finding Euphemia, said Honorius, addressing himself to Raymond, we might  
consider

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consider our difficulties as pretty well over.

She is most probably at Lady Framp-ton's, replied Raymond.

We will seek her there, said Hono-rius.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is somewhat surprizing, said Ho-norius, after a considerable pause. It is somewhat surprizing Raymond, that you never made enquiry of Euphe-mia in a place so likely to afford you intelligence of her, as that you just now mentioned.

Accuse me not of so criminal a neg-lect, replied Raymond, for be assured it was my first and chiefest care. Up-on my application I unfortunately learned that her ladyship was gone upon a visit to the continent, and, as every day increased my troubles, I,  
through

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through necessity, was compelled to relinquish the pursuit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Having dined, we received a message from Lord Saintly, requesting that he might see us immediately.

We were much at a loss to determine to what motive we ought to impute this desire of his Lordship, however we instantly obeyed him.

He informed us that he had slept well since we had last been with him, and that it had been of the most essential service to him, as he found his spirits greatly relieved thereby, and much of that depression, which he before complained of, removed from his mind.

I have sent for you, said he, to ask your advice, and to intreat your attention to a matter which I much wish to have settled.

When

When I reflect upon the injury I have done Julia, and when I consider the accumulated horrors my conduct has heaped upon the head of her and her father, I am tortured even to madness.

That father's motive in the late affair between us, however preposterous and misjudged, was without a doubt to clear his honour, to retrieve his character, and to re-establish that peace which I had destroyed. But has it answered the end designed thereby? Alas! no! His peace is still in every villain's power who may upbraid him with his daughter's frailty. His reputation is so inseparably connected with, and so materially dependant upon that of his child, that the shaft which is aimed at one cannot fail of wounding the other. And his honour is at the mercy of every one who would ungenerously



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roustly wish to revive the memory of past failings.

There is then no other method left but that of my fulfilling the promise I before gave Julia, and making her my wife.

But will she consent, think you? Ah! that demands some deliberation. I doubt she will not.

O fear it not, replied Honorius.

She will with pleasure embrace the opportunity of doing herself justice; nor can her father possibly be dissatisfied at the unquestionable proof he will, by that means, receive of your Lordship's disposition to regain the path from which you have too long deviated.

Yes, said Lord Saintly, I will try if yet she has remaining any tenderness for a man, who has treated her with a barbarity almost unequalled. I will send to her, and I will supplicate her forgiveness

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forgiveness for the cruelty and injustice of my conduct towards her.

And Heaven smile upon the event, said I.

\* \* \* \* \*

Being provided with pen, ink, and paper, his Lordship, raising himself in the bed, wrote as follows :

“ Madam,

“ May the earnest intreaties of an  
“ unworthy penitent prevail so far with  
“ you as to bring you to visit him?  
“ Conscious as he is how little he deserves the  
“ smallest portion of your regard; conscious that he rather merits your hatred and everlasting indignation, he rests his hopes of seeing you only upon your charity and compassion. Let not those virtues lose their sweet influence over that heart

“ heart which has so long been their  
“ amiable repository, but, on the re-  
“ ceipt hereof, hasten to him who sub-  
“ cribes himself your unworthy

“ SAINTLY.”

Raymond, whose officiousness was the result only of the utmost good nature, having taken upon himself the charge of delivering the above epistle, presently after departed for that purpose towards the habitation of her to whom it was addressed. He was particularly instructed with respect to the father of Julia, whose attendance at the inn he was commissioned to urge with all the abilities he was master of, as a circumstance indispensable; and, as a further inducement thereto, he was authorized to assure the old gentleman of his Lordship's readiness to espouse Julia whenever his health would permit it.

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Soon

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Soon after Raymond had quitted us, Honorius suggested to us that it was proper we should leave his Lordship to his repose.

He will thereby be the better prepared against the return of his messenger, said he.

It was a suggestion founded on the purest motive of humanity, and we readily acquiesced therein.

\* \* \* \* \*

This, said Honorius, is only the fifth day since we left home, and yet methinks, Euphrastus, we have met with more adventures than would fill a volume.

What thinkest thou? Is it by the peculiar appointment of Heaven? Or does it originate merely from accident, that they so abundantly greet us?

But

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But why need I ask? continued he, correcting himself. That lengthened chain of concurrent incidents, materially depending upon each other, and the whole of which seems hitherto to have contributed towards the point we wish accomplished, can owe their being only to the favour of the Deity.

Whose will be done on earth, said I.

\* \* \* \* \*

A sudden and violent scream, seemingly proceeding from without, at that instant drew my attention.

Every moment it grew louder and louder, and almost without intermission.

It is the cry of distress, said the peasant, hastening towards the door.

I staid to hear no more, but instantly followed him into the street.

## C H A P. XXI.

THE noise which had alarmed us so, was occasioned by the accidental overturning of a coach.

In it were two ladies, attended by a third, whose appearance placed her only in the rank of a servant.

One of the ladies was considerably advanced in years. The other —

But in what manner shall I speak of HER ?

She was the most exact and finished piece of workmanship that fancy ever beheld in her mimic creation. She was all that poets mean when they sing of beauty and of perfection. All that nature in her most liberal moments ever designed as lovely. And she wonderfully comprehended in herself all those genuine graces, those young delights,



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lights, which the pencil and the chisel have so long and so vainly been employed in the imitation of.

Her figure was delicate beyond imagination. Her eyes were of a fine blue, irresistibly bright, full, and piercing. And her countenance, in which was infused a soft and prevailing sorrow, descriptive of the most exquisite sensibility, displayed those amiable traces of love and tenderness, which could not fail of interesting the heart and the affections.

Unmindful of the danger to which she herself was exposed, all her care seemed to be exerted for the preservation of the senior lady, who was thrown into so distressful a posture as required the utmost address effectually to relieve her.

With some difficulty, and after much time exhausted in the attempt, we contrived to extricate them from

their very disagreeable situation. Nor was it without a singular degree of pleasure we learned that neither of them had received any material hurt.

They were almost endless in their acknowledgments to us for our humanity in so readily flying to their relief. They wished to know how and in what manner they might recompence us. And with the utmost difficulty were they prevailed upon to moderate their expressions, which were such as we could not attend to without pain.

As the accident had greatly terrified them, I pressed them to accompany me to the inn.

This they readily agreed to, and in consequence thereof instantly followed me.

\* \* \* \* \*

Scarcely had we entered the inn door before we were met by Honorius.

I had

I had left him in deep admiration of the unfathomable designs of the deity, of the wisdom with which he regulates the affairs of his creatures, and of his divine skill in bringing about those ends which may most contribute to his glory.

The instant however that he fixed his eyes upon the young lady, I perceived a quick and surprizing alteration in him. He stood as one deprived of sense or motion. His countenance suddenly changed from the extremes of pale to red; nor was it till after I had repeatedly called upon him, that he recovered himself sufficiently to recollect where he was.

The lady, on the other hand, was no less affected at the sight of Honorius. She gazed intently upon him, as if doubtful whether she ought to credit the testimony of her senses. She stood irresolutely wavering in her mind

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whether she might with prudence address herself to him. And she impatiently waited for the arrival of that moment when her doubts on this head might be satisfied.

Heavens, madam! Is it you? said Honorius.

And is it indeed Honorius whom I behold? said the lady. Gracious Father! this is a blessing that I looked not for! And what brought Honorius so far from home?

Even the hopes of seeing you, madam, replied Honorius. But this is an improper place for the relation. When we are entered I will inform you of the whole.

\* \* \* \* \*

O, my Euphrastus! said Honorius, privately addressing himself to me, behold in this lady, her of whom we came

came in search. Even Euphemia, the wife of Raymond, my long lost Sophia! Dost thou not perceive in her those perfections and those incomparable graces of which thou hast, I know not how oft, been a silent hearer! Dost thou not contemplate in her those matchless qualities which involuntarily and instantaneously affect the soul as by enchantment? And dost thou not trace in her that inexhaustible round of delights which must of necessity lift the possessor of her to happiness supreme, and which language finds itself inadequate to the task of describing? Yes! yes! thou dost. Nor canst thou remain obstinately blind against the power of conviction.

\* \* \* \* \*

Where is she! where is she! that instant exclaimed a voice from with-

out, which we quickly knew to be Raymond's, and who immediately and unceremoniously burst in upon us. Let me see her! Let me once more feast my senses by gazing upon her! Once more strain her in my arms! Once more hold her to my heart! Ah! she moves not! stirs not! she is gone! she is gone! she is gone!

Before he had concluded these last expressions, Euphemia, overcome by the novelty of so unexpected a scene, had fallen senseless upon the floor.

By the assistance of a little cold water we however soon restored her to the recollection of what had happened. Her eyes once more resumed their wonted fire, and her cheeks exhibited again that bright and celestial bloom which usually animated them.

Directing her eyes alternately from her husband to Honorius, as endeavouring



vouring to discover the meaning and nature of an event so extraordinary, and which she was entirely at a loss to investigate, she exclaimed,

Ah! What means this? Honorius! Raymond! say! inform me! Is it a reality? or are my senses imposed upon by the visionary portraiture of a warm and feverish imagination? Am I to believe what so forcibly dwells upon my sight? or am I totally to discredit it as the offspring of illusive fancy? But, continued she, addressing herself more immediately to Raymond, what dost thou here? Art thou not a compound of every evil? Hast thou not been industrious to entail upon me everlasting shame and misery? And art thou not even now involved in beggary and tenfold wretchedness, without a house to hide thee, and without a friend to relieve thee?

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These questions, madam, will I answer, replied Honorius. And by that answer will you find that your husband is not that faulty, that guilty character which you have been taught to consider him. You will likewise thereby perceive that his sufferings have greatly and infinitely exceeded his errors. And you will be compelled to confess, ingenuously to confess, in justice to his merits, that misfortune came undeservedly upon him.

Honorius then related to her the particulars of our meeting with Raymond, and the whole of our adventures since that period. He informed her of the declaration of Lord Saintly, and of the artifices he had confessedly made use of in order to seduce her affections from her husband. He repeated to her every circumstance relative to the affair at the tavern, and the many stratagems he had used

to

to effect his design upon Raymond. And he further informed her of his Lordship's present situation and sentiments, and of his disposition to rectify and atone for the evils which he had been the author of to them both.

And now, madam, concluded Honorius, I submit it to yourself to determine whether, all these circumstances considered, your husband is not entitled to your forgiveness? I know you cannot refuse it him; and notwithstanding some trifling errors may be discernable in his conduct, I however trust that Euphemia's partiality will induce her to overlook them, as originating rather from accident and involuntary mistake, than from vice, or from a mind habituated to evil.

I see, I see my mistake! said Euphemia. I only am to blame in so hastily crediting the improbable tale imposed upon me; and it is for me  
alone.

alone to ask forgiveness, whose credulity and too easy confidence led me to forsake my husband in the hour of sickness. But, but ——

Ah! name it not, exclaimed Raymond, interrupting her, name it not my Euphemia! Heaven is my witness thou art to the soul of Raymond of more consequence and of more value than all the earth contains. Possessed of thee, I enjoy every blessing, every happiness in the power of fortune to bestow. And without thee, what am I? a miserable wretch, born to draw the vital air without hope, and to die!

But tell me, my Euphemia, where, where hast thou been these many months? Where hast thou secreted thyself from thy Raymond so long? Reflection turns back in amazement, and contemplates in the loss of thee a lapse of ages.

To recount fully and explicitly the sum of my fortunes from the time of my

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my quitting you in London, replied Euphemia, would prove a task equally tedious and unnecessary. Part of it you have already learned from the relations of Lord Saintly and Honorius. What remains I will endeavour concisely to present you with. And if in the course of it you should perceive any circumstance arise, which may serve to impress you with an idea of indiscretion on my part, impute it to its real cause, the misrepresentations of interested artifice.

Talk not of indiscretion, said Honorius. He who has the perusal of the heart, and reads the intention, will acquit you in his mercy, and will justify you in the presence of his saints.

## C H A P. XXII.

YOU have without doubt been already acquainted with the artful method by which Lord Saintly prevailed upon me to leave you, said Euphemia. Nor can you stand in need of a repetition of it. It is a circumstance that I care not how soon is forgot, and which, whenever I reflect on, furnishes me only with pain and disquietude, the children of sorrow and reproach.

No sooner had I effected my escape from his Lordship, than, late as it was, I made the best of my way to Brackley, at which place I procured a post chaise in which I immediately set out for Lady Frampton's in Rutlandshire.

Previous to my departure from London, I had taken care to provide myself with a sum of money, together with



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with such other necessities as I concluded I should want; by reason of which precaution, I was enabled to travel much more agreeably than otherwise I could have expected.

Upon my arrival at her Ladyship's house, I learned to my no small mortification that she was in Wiltshire, from whence she was expected daily to set out for France.

This intelligence induced me to exert all the speed I was mistress of, to get time enough to prevent her from having the start of me. Accordingly, without tarrying a moment to refresh myself, I once more took post horses, and very late at night set out across the country into Wiltshire.

That continued chain of disappointments which I had so lately experienced, pursued me with a rancour no less violent and uncommon on the present occasion.

For

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For upon the accomplishment of my journey, which was not till noon the following day, I learned that Lady Frampton had actually embarked two days before.

As I did not choose to make myself known to those who had the care of her Ladyship's house, I discharged the carriage which had conveyed me thither, and humbly reposing myself upon the care and protection of that Being whose mercies are inexhaustible, I set out on foot, in hopes of finding a proper asylum wherein I might remain retired and undisturbed until my aunt's return.

Towards evening I arrived at a small village, which I was fortunately invited to by a distant view, and which I had no sooner entered than I perceived a genteel house, at the door of which stood an elderly gentlewoman, whose countenance exhibited somewhat so amiably

amiably and engagingly soft, and withal so unaffectedly good-natured, that I could not resist the opportunity of asking her if she could, with convenience to herself, receive me into her house.

It was the widow Stanley.

After looking at me a few moments with some degree of attention, unmixed however with that impertinent curiosity which pride too often puts on for the purpose, the inhuman purpose only of wounding the bosom of sensibility, she frankly and generously desired me to walk in, and, with a freedom that charmed me, informed me that herself and her habitation were equally and entirely at my service.

I was greatly pleased at this circumstance. It was what I much wished for, and yet durst not flatter myself with the expectation of.

Thus

Thus agreeably situated, even beyond my hope, I soon contracted an acquaintance with Honorius.

Shall I be pardoned when I confess that it was not without pleasure I contemplated the progress of this acquaintance? Yes, I shall! His virtues justly entitled him to my esteem, and his many amiable and excellent qualities were an undeniable claim upon my friendship and affection.

Was I to repeat all those expressions which the good widow was continually entertaining me with in praise of him, I might probably be discredited. They would sound more like the adulatory effusions of insincerity or designing artifice, than the plain relation of truth and candour, nor would Honorius himself approve of the merited encomium.

Notwithstanding the unexceptionable situation chance had thus pointed  
me

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me out, I was nevertheless truly miserable when I reflected upon the severity of my fate, which had drove me friendless from my home and from my connexions, to the experience of those horrors which never fail to actuate the mind familiarized to misfortune.

My husband, criminal as I was taught to consider him, was still ever uppermost in my thought.

In spite of the undoubted proofs I had received of his weakness and indiscretion. In spite of the evidence of my eyes, and the unerring testimony of my senses collectively, I still anxiously sought for reasons which might justify me in thinking him less faulty, less guilty than from his Lordship's representations I was reasonably induced to do.

All my endeavours however on this head were insufficient.

The

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The manifestations of his imprudence were unfortunately so glaring, so striking, and so convincing, that had I discredited them, I had thereby rendered myself justly obnoxious to the imputation of blindness and wilful obstinacy.

Thus deprived of the agreeable hope of deducing to myself consolation from thought, I remained the mournful victim of despair and of sorrow, which, notwithstanding my utmost care to conceal, were still too visible to escape the eye of the observer.

Without any other company than Honorius to amuse us in our retirement, four months did I continue an intruder upon the good lady's hospitality, whom I now began to esteem in a manner much beyond that of an ordinary acquaintance; nor did her many excellent and amiable qualities, which every day still more and more convinced



convinced me she possessed, fail to mature that respect and veneration, I had so imperceptibly conceived for her, into affection and filial tenderness.

I had the satisfaction in return to find that my endeavours to gain her good opinion were not entirely lost. Every moment told me that she regarded me with an equal degree of sincerity, and that she was nothing less desirous of contributing to my happiness than I to her's; and although she carefully avoided asking me those questions which she apprehended might prove disagreeable to me, she nevertheless was anxious to divert the melancholy that preyed upon me, and was unwearied in finding out and recommending those wholesome and innocent recreations which she thought might conduce to that purpose.

But now the time was arrived when I was doomed to take a long and last adieu

adieu of these my kind and liberal friends; a thought which I could not indulge without pain and the most exquisite sorrow.

As I was one morning endeavouring to relieve my spirits of the weight that hung upon them, by a seasonable and solitary walk, I accidentally perceived at a distance a servant in Lady Framp-ton's livery.

As he approached me I stopped him, and learned, in answer to my enquiries, that her Ladyship was then in the neighbourhood, where she was expected to continue some time, she being lately returned from abroad.

The instant I regained the place from whence I had set out, I began to meditate in what manner I might best bid adieu to those, whom friendship and a knowledge of their virtues equally taught me to esteem.

To

To take a formal leave, would, I well knew, be the infallible means of increasing my sorrows. Yet could I not think of departing without accounting in some measure for the necessity of that step, previous to the adoption of it; more especially as it was evident that by so doing I should involve those I respected, in trouble and perplexity.

After some time, past in deliberation, I concluded it most adviseable to leave behind me a letter, such as might serve as an apology for my conduct, and which might at the same time, contain the best and most proper acknowledgment I was enabled to offer them for the many civilities I had received.

This I accordingly put in execution; and the same night when the family were in bed, with streaming eyes, I let myself out, unperceived by any one,

and immediately bade adieu to the village.

As I was well acquainted with the route I had to take, the darkness did not prevent me from reaching the place to which my steps were directed, so that in a few hours I arrived at Lady Frampton's, from whom I met with a reception equal to my wishes.

From that period I have remained the constant attendant of her Ladyship, with whom I have lately been upon a visit to London, and from whence we were now returning into the country, had we not been delayed by means of the accident you have been witnesses of; an accident however, which, after the wonderful discovery it has given birth to, I shall ever commemorate as the most fortunate incident of my life.

C H A P. XXIII:

HAVING all of us respectively paid our compliments to Lady Frampton and the beautiful Euphemia, Honorius proposed that we should together immediately visit Lord Saintly, who no doubt was eagerly and impatiently waiting the return of Raymond.

We accordingly proceeded towards his Lordship's apartment, whom we found sitting up in bed, and seemingly possessed of spirits such as flattered us with the most sanguine hopes of a speedy recovery.

The instant he perceived Euphemia, he gazed at her with such strong, such evident signs of amazement depicted in his countenance, that we began to repent having so readily entered into the proposal of Honorius, being apprehensive

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hensive that the surprize occasioned by so unexpected a sight might be attended with consequences prejudicial to his safety.

Do you not recollect me, my Lord? said Euphemia.

Yes, madam! yes! too well I recollect you, replied Lord Saintly. I recollect also the many injuries I have done you; injuries which you neither can, nor indeed ought to forgive. Injuries which exceed belief, and which, I fear the most sincere, the most perfect repentance will never effectually destroy the memory of.

Ah! say not so, my Lord, rejoined Euphemia. He who sighs in secret shall be strengthened in hope, and he who weeps in sin shall be justified in mercy.

Ah speak again! speak again, fair angel! said Lord Saintly,

“ — for



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“ ——— for thou art

As glorious to this fight,  
As is a winged messenger from Heaven,  
To the upturned wond’ring eyes of mortals,  
When he bestrides the lazy pacing clouds,  
And sails upon the bosom of the air.”

Canst thou indeed, bright excellence! forgive? Canst thou? But I can never forgive, continued his Lordship, can never pardon the many many wrongs I have done thee: Wrongs which continually rise up in judgment against me, and damn me far beyond the dominion of grace, or the reach of mercy.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was Julia and her father who just then entered the apartment of Lord Saintly.

Not without the most earnest entreaties was it that Raymond had prevailed

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upon

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upon the old gentleman to promise him to come.

His behaviour as he approached was manly and resolute, yet at the same time circumspect and reserved. His countenance was expressive of severity which bespoke a conscious superiority, such as neither time nor misfortune could impair. And his eyes glowed with that fire which at once awed and commanded.

Behind him, at a trifling distance, came his fair, his amiable daughter, trembling as she drew near, and overwhelmed with so visible and delicate a confusion as pained the heart.

Her head was gently and gracefully declined, and her hands pathetically infolded within each other. Her eyes were swollen and red with long weeping, and down her cheeks the tears had formed a passage that bade defiance to the approach of joy.

The

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The unexpected appearance of so many strangers served not a little to increase her embarrassment. With a modest diffidence she was going to retire. She was however prevented by the commands of her father.

Well, my Lord! said the old soldier, looking towards the wounded peer, who was himself in need of strength to support him under the confusion which the presence of Euphemia had involved him in. Well, my Lord! at your request I have condescended to visit you. What nothing else would effect, the representation of that gentleman (pointing to Raymond) has effected. Let me understand from your Lordship whether or not I do right in crediting him.

I wish no other, replied his Lordship.

Why then, my Lord, said the soldier, we are no longer enemies.

But

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But will my Julia consent? said Lord Saintly, directing his eyes towards the fair mourner. Will she not reject the man who has treated her so barbarously and so unjustifiably?

Julia's tears flowed faster than before.

Approaching the bed she gave her hand to his Lordship. Here, my Lord, said she, all that your poor Julia has in her power, she will readily contribute towards your Lordship's happiness.

Generous, generous creature! said Lord Saintly. But it shall be my study to prove deserving of this goodness!

Confess now, my Lord, said Honorius, that you find more real pleasure, more solid satisfaction in being the author of one virtuous action, than you have hitherto experienced in all the mean and bad ones you ever committed.

Upbraid

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Upbraid me not with my folly, replied his Lordship, I see, I see it sufficiently! My conscience eternally warns me of it, and is to me a source of punishment greater than I can bear.

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The attorney and the peasant, whom we had left below, being now sent for, Lord Saintly addressed himself to the former, and desired him to prepare a proper instrument by which he bound himself to do justice to every party he had injured.

For it is but fit, said his Lordship, that he who has been the partner of my sin, should likewise assist me in atoning for it.

Every individual being now satisfied, we once more departed and left his Lordship to his repose.

Ah

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Ah then, said Honorius, I at last find by experience, that although mankind are corrupt, they are not totally irreclaimable. And, notwithstanding too many of them are proud, selfish and insincere, yet there are some amongst them capable of honour and the refinements of friendship. I will henceforward think them so.

F I N I S.

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